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# Romanian Postal Tax Stamps of 1943

*By George Pataki*

In "Revista Societatii Filatelice Romane" (Romanian Philatelic Society Magazine) No. 9-10 of 1943, a notice from the Ministry of Finance informs the public:

"Beginning November 1, 1943, postal tax on items mailed through the postal services will be paid by affixing tax stamps as follows:

"1. A 0.50 Lei tax stamp on postal cards (military postal cards excepted), greeting cards, any kind of printed matter except those distributed without address, school books, scientific and literary books and any other type of printings except newspapers and periodicals.

"2. A 1 Leu tax stamp on ordinary and registered domestic letters, business letters, illustrated postcards and money orders, summonses sent by mail and postal money order cashing services.

"3. A 2 Lei tax stamp on domestic telegrams and domestic telegraphic money orders.

"4. A 4 Lei tax stamp for domestic telegrams with pre-paid replies.

"5. A 5 Lei tax stamp on merchandise arrival notices and on shipping forms covering money or other items sent through the mail.

"It must be emphasized that as the postal rates established in the Journal of the Counsel of Ministers, No. 1171, published in Monitorul Oficial No. 279 of Nov. 27, 1942, already include the postal tax, these new tax stamps do not signal an increase in these rates.

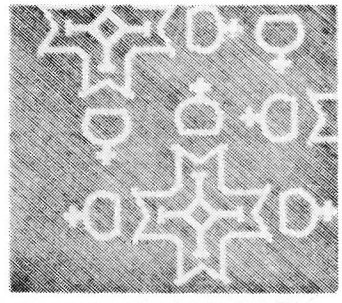
"Therefore, beginning Nov. 1, 1943, to properly make up the entire postal rate, the public will have to affix on any postal matter affected, these new tax stamps which will be issued by that date.

"In case these tax stamps are not affixed on letters or other postal matter, the senders take a chance in not getting these items mailed because according to Article 44 of the Postal Law, postal services which transmit unfranked items may be harshly punished."

The stamps used for this purpose are those listed by Scott as Nos. RA25-31. The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 lists them as FP1-7 (page 465). Because they show the portrait of the former King Michael, this catalogue does not illustrate them. The stamps' text reads: "ROMANIA" at the top, "TIMBRU FISCAL POSTAL" under the portrait, the currency and the denomination is expressed in the two lower corners. Under the lower right frame line, in very small letters, is the imprint "FABRICA DE TIMBRE" (Stamp Printing Works).

The set comprises seven values: 50 Bani, orange vermilion; 1 Leu, lilac rose; 2 Lei, brown; 4 Lei, light ultramarine; 5 Lei, lilac; 8 Lei, yellow green; and 10 Lei, black brown. Slight shade variations exist.

Printed on white paper, the stamps are watermarked type M, "of King Michael"



(watermark XIV in the R.P.S.C. of 1974). The design measures 18 x 22 mm, the stamp measures 21 x 26 mm. The perforation, supposed to be 14½ x 14, because of the inaccuracy of the old perforating machines used, actually measures 14.3 x 13.9, with slight variations, with as many as three different perforation measurements on the same stamp.

The Ministry of Finance's notice makes no mention of the 8 and 10 Lei stamps. It seems that seven stamps were issued, instead of five, to conform with a decision made later.

Checking a large collection of postal cards used from 1943 to 1946, we noticed that 90% of these cards don't have these postal tax stamps despite the admonition made by the Ministry of Finance to use them on all postal matter mentioned in their notice. Moreover, those tax stamps that were found on these cards are of 1 and 2 Lei denominations,

rather than the 50 Bani (0.50 Lei) mentioned in the Ministry of Finance's public notice. The reason for this could be either a later change in the rates, or the unavailability of the 50 Bani stamps.

Complete mint sets and postally used 1 and 2 Lei are common; the other values are very scarce used.

In November 1944, the authorities at Tirgu-Mures applied a black overprint, "ERDELY TRANSILVANIA" on 450 of the 1 Leu and 450 of the 2 Lei postal tax stamps, to be used alongside the King Michael definitive issue, bearing the same overprint. Supposedly, 90% of the overprinted tax stamps were used on registered letters and 10% were sold to philatelists.

Genuine postally used stamps are extremely scarce, since most of the "used" stamps, even those on cover, are favor cancelled. Forged overprints are known.

In May 1946 (as was required by the 1939 Universal Postal Convention held in Buenos Aires and by the Geneva Convention), at the request of the Romanian Red Cross, the Postal Administration overprinted remainders of the tax stamps of 1943 for use by prisoners of war on mail to be sent via the Red Cross. In Memo No. 76020/946, the Postal Administration informed all the post offices that P.O.W. mail should be franked with these stamps. The overprint, in red, reads: "SERVICIUL PRIZONIERILOR DE RAZBOI, SCUTIT DE TAXA POSTALA" (Service of the Prisoners of War, Free of Postal Charge), and a red cross covers the denomination.

In November 1946, a new special set of three stamps (with the portrait of the Queen Mother) was issued (120,000 perforate and 30,000 imperforate) for the use by P.O.W.s. All the P.O.W. stamps were as unnecessary as the overprinted tax stamps because by 1946 Romania had virtually no P.O.W.s. The Allied prisoners of war (mostly American fliers shot down over Romania) had been set free and repatriated at the end of the war, and those of the Axis forces had been transferred to the Soviet Union. Overprinted tax stamps, postally used by P.O.W.s are thus practically nonexistent while complete mint sets are quite common. While these stamps overprinted for P.O.W. usage are official government issues, they are not listed by Scott. The specialized Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 lists them as G.3-9 (page 426).

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# THE 1869 PRINCE CAROL ISSUE—THE HIGH VALUES

**Dr. L.N. Cristea, Tengstrasse No. 20, Apt. 304, 8000 Munich 40, West Germany.**

The 25 and 50 bani high values of this issue were the first bicolored stamps of Romania. The national colors were used, in two different combinations: yellow and blue for the 25 bani and blue and red for the 50 bani.

This interesting issue was studied at length and published in part in the LONDON PHILATELIST (June 1960) by the keeper of the English Royal Collection, the late Sir John Wilson. Most of the data below concerning color combinations are based on his finding, imparted during a talk at the Royal Philatelic Society of London that same year. He had promised to commit to paper his remarks and conclusions but - to my knowledge - never managed to do so. I had the priviledge of talking to him about these stamps on two further occasions when he added to the points raised during his public talk. I had the impression that he had not yet reached that stage in his research of putting on paper what he considered "provisional findings". Neverthless, I consider it important to record here some of my notes, based on information supplied by that eminent philatelic scholar, Sir John.

### Design

In the first part (ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES, Volume 4, No. 2, 1980, page 5) it was noted that the bust line of the portrait displays a small colored dot, about 2/5 of the way from the bust on the 5, 10, 15 and early 50 bani stamps. In the case of the 25 bani this dot is the exception to the rule, usually being replaced by a slight gap. The same also applies to the later printings of the 50 bani.

At least 2 types of the frame design are found for the 25 bani and 3 for the 50 bani.

### Printing Method

To obtain bicolored stamps, the printing had to be carried out in two separate operations. The printer first fed the paper on to the frame stone (yellow for the 25 bani and blue for the 50 bani) and then on to the portrait stone (blue for the 25 bani and red for the 50 bani). To place the head precisely aligned with respect to the frame's oval, the printer used some guide markings. These were a cross (appertaining to the frame stone) and a small circle (on the portrait stone), placed in the white margins of the sheets. A perfect match was insured by placing the center of the small circle on the intersection of the cross. When this operation was slightly imperfect white spaces (noticed on both high values) would result between the oval and the portrait's background. Given the primitive methods of printing, one can only admire the accuracy with which the printers carried out their task. To my knowledge, no prints of either the head or the frame alone have been found, which points to the fact that all printer's waste were promptly destroyed. (Stamps with just a blue frame, identified by some exhibitors as belonging to the 1869 issue, are, in fact, printer's waste of the 50 bani Emergency Issue of 1872). During the placement of the paper from the frame stone on to the head stone, some sheets lightly touched the latter stone. This left minute traces of color, which are classified as "misplaced medallions" by some collectors. In most cases we are actually dealing with only a very slight "kiss" during the alignment operation. No "true" double portraits have been recorded, so far.

### The Transfer Blocks

It too three quarters of a century to correctly reconstruct the transfer-blocks of the 25 and 50 bani. A reference book used by most collectors (Die Rekonstruction der Umdruckblocks der rumanischen Briefmarkenausgaben von 1866-1872 - Berlin, 1933) by H. Birnbach incorrectly recorded several transfer-blocks, including the 5, 25 and 50 bani 1869. Birnbach had merely brought together within one book research of several authors before him. In the early thirties, numerous collectors, in Romania and abroad, noted discrepancies between some of their marginal items (left margin of sheet) and the transfer-blocks as recorded. Once more, Sir John Wilson put an end to the uncertainty by openly stating that the sequence within the transfer-blocks had to be changed as follows:

**25 bani** - Birnbach's type 3 is in fact type 1; type 4 is in fact type 2; type 1 is in fact type 3; type 2 is in fact type 4.

**50 bani** - Birnbach's type 4 is in fact type 1; type 1 is in fact type 2; type 2 is in fact type 3; type 3 is in fact type 4.

While the lower values' transfer-blocks included both the head and frame portions of the design, for the bicolored high values utilized one transfer-block for the frame and a second for the head. Sir John was the first to study the two as separate units. Logically the printer should have used transfer-blocks of four units for each, the head and the frame. But Sir John was of the opinion that while the frame transfer-block comprised 4 units, that of the head contained 8. It is regrettable that Sir John did not leave precise details regarding the 8 transfers, but the indications are that he was right. We must not forget that the head design is identical to that of the 1868 issue (whose transfer-block is composed of 8 units). The designer of the new 1869 issue had only changed the frame. This field of research is still open to devoted students.

### The Lithographic Printing Stones

For the 25 bani the only stone identified for certain is Type IV (D). The key item identifying this stone is a lower right corner blovk in the collection of the late E. Cohen. (Figure 1):

2-X-X
3-4-X
X=blank space or sheet margin

Although we have no other irrefutable items to prove the existence of other stones, we must assume - given the lengthy time these stamps remained in use - that several stones were manufactured and it would be surprising that they should have all had the same configuration.

The 50 bani's blue frame had allowed closer study. It was printed, without any doubt, from at least three Type IV (D) stones. The Wilson Collection included the multiple necessary to prove this (Figure 2):

2-3-X-X
2-3-4-X
1-4-4-X
X-X-X-X

The three frame stones were used with five head stones. To illustrate combinations between the frame and head stones the following table proves helpful:

Fig. 1. The Cohen block

Fig. 2. The Wilson block

**Frame:**

a - Watery blue or light blue & sometimes greenish blue

b - Light blue with details well defined. (Includes the "folded-transfer" variety on stamps nos. 96-97.

Blue
(Folded-transfer)

Deeper blue
(Folded-transfer)

c - Metallic blue or indigo

**Head:**

1 - Geranium red. The background of the head covers well the blue oval frame. The bust is pointed and the ear well defined.

2 - Carmine, when well printed. This offers the "halo" brush retouches.

3 - Carmine, but head blurry. Unknown in mint condition.

4 - Red. Neck, hair and back of head with tool retouches.

5 - Brownish-red (Most of the surviving multiples.

This table should be considered a guide. Many more details could be added regarding shades, clarity of frame lines, lettering, shading lines, ear definition and constant varieties. Any collector with a sufficient number of such stamps can add details of his own.

**Paper**

The numerous printings of this issue lead to utilization of different qualities of paper. Both high values were printed at first on heavier white porous paper. In 1870-1871 the paper used was shinier and thinner. "Pelure" quality appears, as a great exception, probably the result of including some odd sheets during an emergency printing. Similarly, we note a shiny yellowish paper, which dulls the colors.

**Color Combinations and Color Sequence: 25 Bani**

The frame was at first (April 1869) printed in a watery yellow, with equally unclear blue heads. Printings which followed, in the middle of the same year, appeared in a firm, clear yellow, with a light blue head and a darker blue background. This is the period of the brush retouches. Between August 1869 and March-April 1870 the frame is orange and the heads a darker blue. In May-June 1870 the orange is combined with a light blue with a tendency to ultramarine (a rare shade). The yellow frame, with blue and dark blue heads, reappears in the July-October 1879 period. The last printings of this value were produced in orange with a tendency to red orange, combined with very dark blue or indigo heads. The red orange and indigo combination is rather scarce, especially used. The rarest 25 bani color combination encountered is light yellow with greenish blue. Multiples of this combination have not been recorded.

**Transfer Substitution**

Blocks of the 50 bani in the Wilson collection have revealed another peculiarity of the "b" frame stone. Stamp no. 61 in the sheet (row 5, column 5) is a substituted transfer (cliche type 2 instead of 1). That 5th horizontal row reads therefore:

1-2-3-4-2-3-4-1-2-3-4-1-2-3-X-X

The lithographer, because of a faulty transfer, shifted everything right from the replaced transfer, one space to the left. He thereby created irregular vertical pairs and multiples in the main body of the sheet.

**Retouches**

As with the previous lithographed stamps, these two denominations were retouched both by tool and brush, to correct faults and/or improve poor definition caused by wear of the printing stones. The tool was used for outlining the contour of the head, ear, and for definition of the hair. Placing ink around the portrait by brush, aimed at insuring a clear definition of the head, but occasionally either impaired the actual contour of the effigy, or by spreading ink across the oval line affected details of the frame design.

These two values offer a series of retouches ranging from a simple line outlining the back of the head to such spectacular ones as heavy criss-cross lines in the hair (to cover bald patches) and several lines trying to restore a contour to the back of the head (creating the beginning of a "chignon"), or cutting off a part of the occiput. The brush background retouches lead some early catalogues of this century to mention a "reverses head" variety. In fact a "halo" effect was created by the portion not touched by the brush (Figures 3 and 4).

**Fig. 4. Brush retouch**

**Constant Varieties**

It is better to illustrate varieties than to describe them. I mention only two, one of which has never been publicized before. All serious Romania collectors know of the spectacular "folded-transfer" variety of the 50 bani, which occur on the positions 96 and 97 of the "b" frame stone, and therefore encountered on the 2, 3 and 4 head stones. The fold starts in the top left corner of the 97th stamp (which appears cut off) and continues with a break in the right vertical frame lines of the 96th stamp. Also affected is the numeral "5" in the lower right spandrel. This "5" has lost a part of its curl (Figure 5). When con-

**Fig. 3a Ear retouch by brush**

**Fig. 3b Tool retouches**

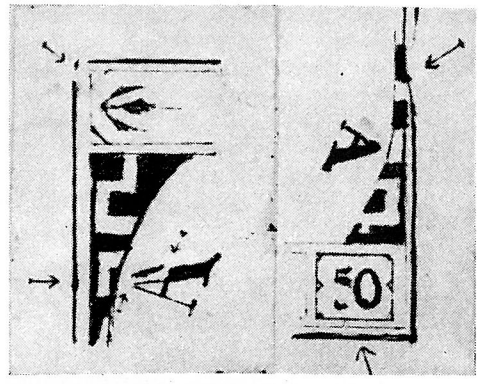


**Fig. 5. Folded transfer variety**

Fig. 6a
Broken "i"

Fig. 6b. Broken frame

Fig. 6c. Broken letters

Fig. 6d. Lower right corner

templating the 96th stamp, one has the impression that the transfer was cut by mistake and was put together again rather clumsily.

The second constant variety, in the frame design is that of the "split A" in "POSTA". The upper right part of the letter is split down to the transversal. Likewise, this variety pertains to the "b" frame stone (Figure 5).

Other constant varieties, for both top values, include colored dots in the value spandrels, slight deformation of the forehead and the nose, damaged letters and variation in size (due to paper contraction after printing). The varieties excite great interest as they can be tracked through the differing color combinations, and we can thus determine from which frame and head stone they originate (Figure 6).

### Bisection

The 50 bani stamp is recorded cut in two on a December 1870 letter addressed to Vienna from Jassy. As the letter also displays a framed "PD" and an arrival postmark, its authentic postal usage, even if philatelically motivated, cannot be in doubt. Years ago, this item was in the collection of E. Cohen (of Lisbon, Portugal) (Figure 7).

### Desirable Items

Given the long usage of the 1869 issue, some very strange and spectacular frankings can be found (Figures 8). The German philatelic vocabulary contains the terms "Buntfrankatur" for frankings including 2 or more values of the same issue, and "Mischfrankatur" for frankings containing stamps belonging to different issues which were in use simultaneously. The 1869 issue stamps can be found with stamps of both the previous issue of 1868, as well as the subsequent, "full-beard" stamps, in some most unusual combinations. High values of the 1869 issue in pairs, strips or blocks are not only desirable, but sometimes very scarce.

The fully dated postmarks, which include the year, introduced in October 1868 are exceedingly rare. Those of 1869 are rare, while those with the 1870 "millesime" are scarce. Stamps with 1871 and 1872 strikes are, however, common.

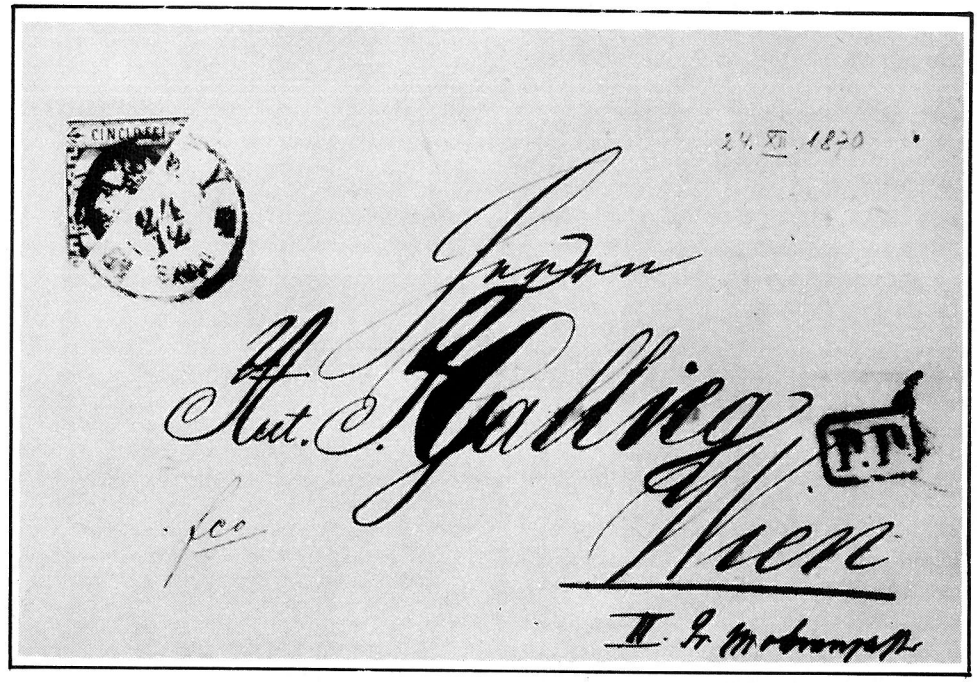


Fig. 7. Bisected use of 50 bani

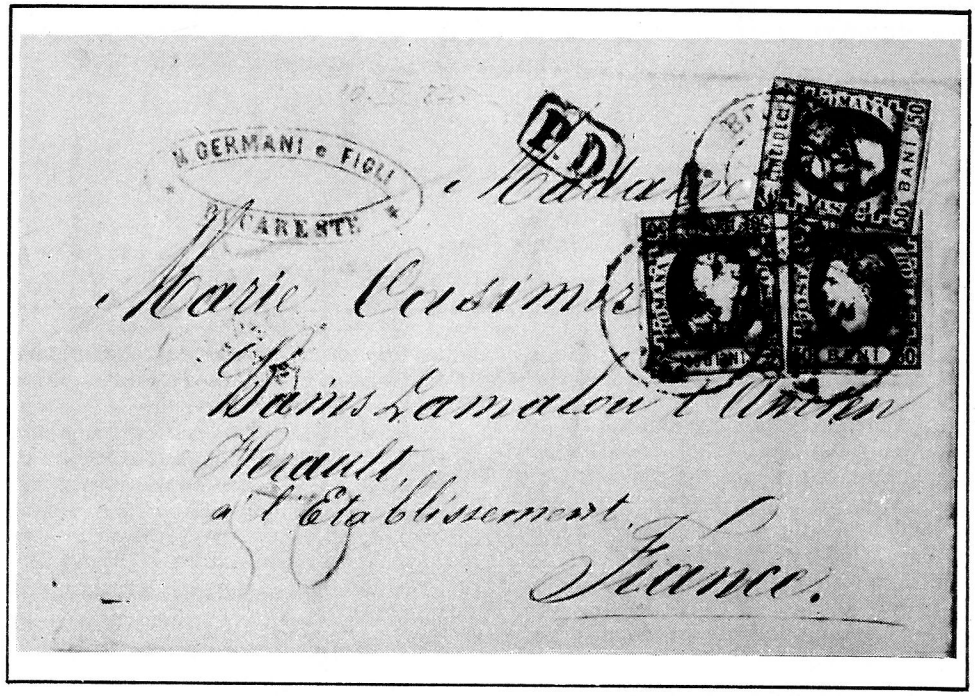


Fig. 8a. Spectacular franking

### Rare Postmarks

There is no point in listing all the possible postmarks on the 1869 issue, in light of numerous good articles on this subject published in the last few years. It is nevertheless important to mention a few of the lesser known cancellations.

In October 1868 the old telegraph office in the Prince's Palace (Cotroceni Palace) was also entrusted with postal duties. Stamps, cancellers and postal forms were supplied a clerk appopnted. Research carried out by K. Dragomir of Bucharest, concludes that this office handled little OUTGOING mail. Its 26 mm. diameter single-circle postmark reads: "OFFICIUL POSTAL PRINCIAR". A three-tier date column shows the day, month and last two figures of year in Arabic numerals. Only two strikes have so far been found on stamps: a full strike reading "OFFICIUL POSTAL PRINCIAR / / 24/5/69" (Figure 9) on a 25 bani 1869 and a part strike, on the same value. Both were in London collections.

**Fig. 9. "Oficiul Postal Princiar" Postmark**

Rail service between Bucharest and Giurgiu began at the end of October 1869. Two days later post offices opened in both terminal stations: FILARET ( in Bucharest) and GIURGIU. Each received stamps, cancellers and postal forms. The postmark of Filaret reads: "BUCURESTI (at top)/ OFF.POSTAL GAR.FIL. (at bottom)". The date appears on three tiers in Arabic numerals within the inner circle. The year is represented by its last three digits (i.e. 2/11/069). Its equivalent in Giurgiu reads: "GIURGIU (at top)/ OFF.POSTAL GARA (at bottom) with the date as by Filaret.

**Fig. 8b. Spectacular franking**

## SECOND GOLD MEDAL

Romanian Philatelic Studies has been awarded a second GOLD medal. After having received several vermeil and silver medals at various national and international philatelic exhibitions, it obtained its first GOLD medal at STAMPSHOW 80. Just a few months later, the Chicago Philatelic Society, at their 1980 Stamp Exhibition, awarded our bulletin its second Gold medal.

The editor wishes to thank our most active researchers who supplied advanced studies; Silviu Dragomir of Bucharest; Dr. L.N. Cristea of Munich, West Germany; Don Heller of State College, Pennsylvania; David Gijiriguian of New York City, N.Y.; Gabriel Sassower of London, England; Ladislau Rothman of Israel; Dumitru Passalega of Craiova; Marcel Sapira of Bucharest and many others. A special thanks to our Secretary-Treasurer Mark Fromer, who proofread the articles and to all the members who financially supported the bulletin.

## COUNTERFEITED RIVER BOAT MARKINGS

A recent discovery in Romania reveals that a large number of pictorial riverboat cancellations have been counterfeited. The creator of these "rare" postmarks is allegedly Grigore Cuculis of Tulcea, author of an article on this subject published in our No. 1/1979 bulletin and winner of several high awards at various exhibitions. After this discovery, the gold medal awarded him at the Nationala '80 exhibition in Bucharest was withdrawn. His exhibit, full of postcards and covers bearing counterfeited markings, was confiscated.

In one of our next issues we will publish a detailed article of this subject, with illustrations of both the genuine and the counterfeit markings.

# ROMANIAN PERFINS


## VOJTECH MAXA

**P.O. BOX 50, 170 00 Prague, Czechoslovakia**


A decree of January 1, 1892, sanctioned the use of perfins on Romanian stamps. The validity of this decree was withdrawn at the end of 1940 (see Filatelia, January, 1970, pp. 6-7). This decision was, however, not fully adhered to, as in my collection I have several perfined stamps cancelled in 1950 till 1952. After 1952 the appearance of Romanian perfined stamps definitely ceases.

Perfins of Romania are collected in the country of their origin and elsewhere, but no attempt, as far as I know, has been made to set up a catalog of them. Therefore, I decided to produce a list of Romanian perfins. Although it contains about 600 different patterns, it is not yet complete: several other designs certainly exist, many users of the perfins remain unidentified, lacking are also the names of towns where the perfins were used. All this missing data and new designs can be discovered with joint effort of other collectors of Romanian perfins. When received, they will be published in this journal as a supplement. I express my sincere thanks beforehand for any help given. Please send your comment, additions or corrections to my address. Letters in English, French or German will be welcome and duly answered.

The list will be printed in four installments. Its arrangement is alphabetic and each perfin is designated by a letter (first letter of the monogram) and a number. The name of the town in which its user conducted his business is also given. A sign + indicates that the name of the user is known; these names will be given at the end of the listing. It should be understood that all the identifications are positive, which means that they are all supported (with few well-founded exceptions) by a cover or a card with perfined stamp and a business address. No guessing can be considered safe in this respect.

Perfins can be found on normal (or definitive) stamps but also on semi-postal (charity and other stamps with surcharge), and fiscal stamps. Some perfins appear on German stamps overprinted for use in Romania during World War I and on Hungarian stamps used on Romanian territory under Hungarian rule before World War I and during World War II. These will also be listed a the end of this work.


I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the perfin collectors in my own country, in Romania, France, the Netherlands, the German Federal Republic, Hungary, the United States and Canada for their generous help which enabled me to produce this list. Although their help was important and valuable, all the shortcomings are my sole responsibility. Finally, I convey my gratitude to George Pataki who made it possible that this list of Romanian perfins appears in print.


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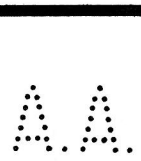
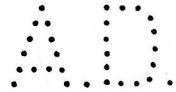
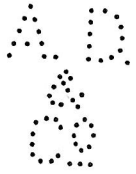
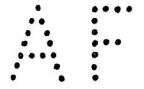
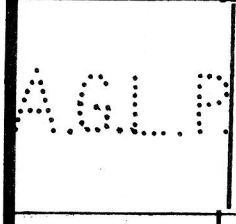
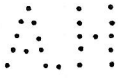
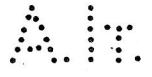
|  | | | | |  | |
| A 1 | A 2 Bucuresti | A 3 | A 4 Bucuresti | A 5 Bucuresti | A 6 Bucuresti | A 7 + Bucuresti |
|  | | | | |  | |
| A 8 | A 9 Galati | A 10 + Bucuresti | A 11 + Bucuresti | A 12 | A 13 | A 14 Bucuresti |
|  |  | | |  | | |
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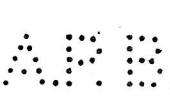
| | | | |  | | |
| A 22 + Bucuresti | A 23 | A 24 | A 25 + Oradea | A 26 + Bucuresti | A 27 | A 28 |

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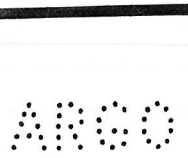
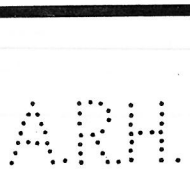
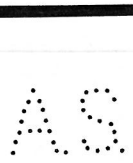
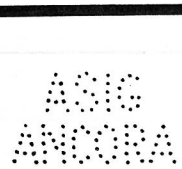
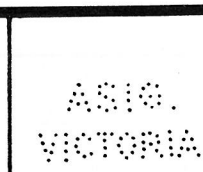
|  |  |  |  |  | | |
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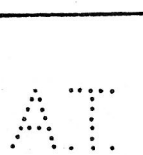
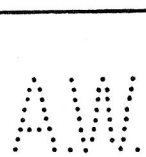
|  |  | | | | | |
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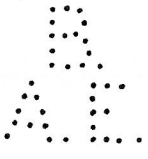
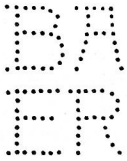
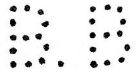
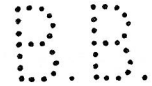
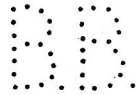
|  |  | | | | | |
| B 5 Bucuresti | B 6 | B 7 Bucuresti | B 8 Timisoara | B 9 Cluj | B 10 Cernauti | B 11 Oradea |
|  | |  |  | | | |
| B 12 Bucuresti | B 13 | B 14 Bucuresti | B 15 Bucuresti | B 16 | B 17 Botosani | B 18 |
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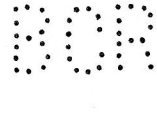
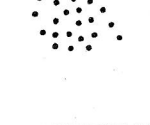
| | |  | | |  | |
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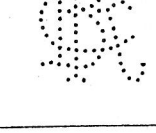
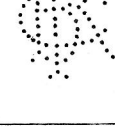
| | | | | |  |  |
| B 33 + Bucuresti | B 34 + Bucuresti | B 35 + Timisoara | B 36 + | B 37 + Craiova | B 38 + Bucuresti | B 39 + Bucuresti |

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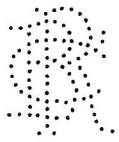
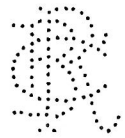
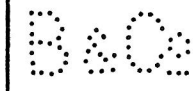
|  |  | | | | |  |
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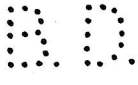
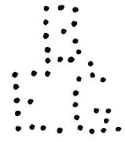
| |  | | | | |  |
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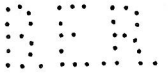
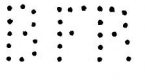
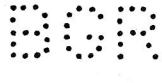
| |  | |  | |  | |
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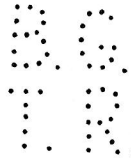
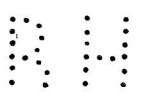
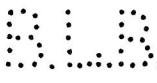
|  |  | | | | |  |
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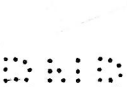
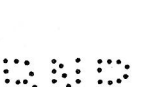
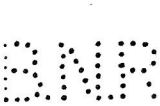
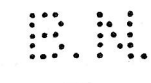
| | |  |  | |  |  |
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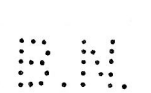
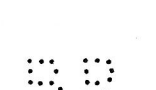
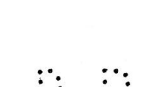
|  | | | |  |  | |
| B 82 | B 83 | B 84 Bucuresti | B 85 | B 86 | B 87 | B 88 + Bucuresti |

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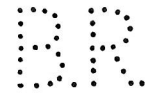
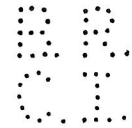
| | | | |  | |  |
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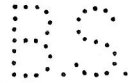
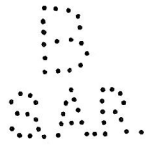
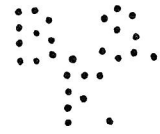
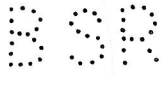
|  | | |  |  |  | |
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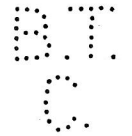
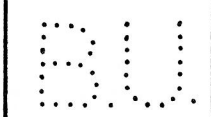
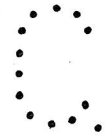
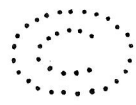
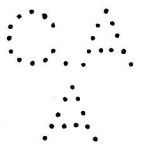
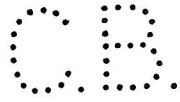
|  |  | | | |  |  |
| B 103 Bucuresti | B 104 + Bucuresti | | C 1 Bucuresti | C 2 Bucuresti | C 3 | C 4 |
|  | | |  | | | |
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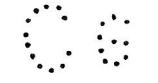
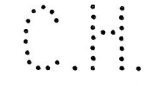
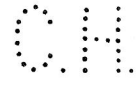
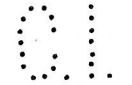
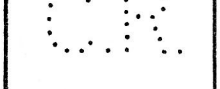
| | | | |  |  |  |
| C 12 Braila | C 13 Bucuresti | C 14 | C 15 Bucuresti | C 16 | C 17 | C 18 Bucuresti |
|  | | | | | | |
| C 19 Bucuresti | C 20 | C 21 | C 22 Bucuresti | C 23 | C 24 | C 25 + Bucuresti |
| |  | | | | | |
| C 26 | C 27 Bucuresti | C 28 Bucuresti | C 29 Bucuresti | C 30 | C 31 Bucuresti | C 32 Bucuresti |

# THE STAROSTIE AGENCIES OF THE AUSTRIAN POSTS IN THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES

**Ludovic Dengel, Str. Noua No. 39, 2400 Sibiu, Romania.**

The philatelic press of Romania and especially publications of Austria have examined in great detail the Austrian postal services in the two Danubian Principalities. But one aspect of these services, the STAROSTIE AGENTIE, has hardly been mentioned in Romania and totally ignored abroad. For 70 years, from the approximate date of their establishment, these agencies remained unknown to students of postal history. In 1916, C. Minescu, in his work ISTORIA POSTELOR ROMANE, wrote for the first time about their existence but then only one single sentence. In 1933, Rudolf Zoscsak of Bucharest, in his essay, "GEKLARTE UND UNGEKLARTE FRAGEN BEZUGLICH DER FREMDEN POSTEN IN DEN DONAU-FURSTENTUMERN" (published in the WIPA Exhibition booklet), wrote about these agencies. He considered them "post offices" and described neither their activities nor their markings. He wrote that at the end of the Crimean War, or rather after the cessation of the Austrian occupation in 1857, the military field post offices once more became consular post offices and those in smaller townships - GIURGIU, PLOIESTI and ROMAN - Starostie agencies. Here R. Zoscsak has made an error. The Starostie agencies were not closed in the years 1854-57 but carried on and in fact as recorded in documents of that time collaborated with the Austrian army of occupation.

An article by Gr. Racoviceanu of Bucharest (in REVISTA SOCIETATII FILATELICE ROMANE, Nos. 4-6, April-June 1944) mentions and describes two letters, bearing the markings of the Starostie agencies in KIMPINA and PLOYEST. The letter with the KIMPINA marking was then in the Col. G. Trandafil collection and the second with PLOYEST in that of G. Matheescu of Sinaia.

In 1962, I discovered three letters with the STAROSTIE IN KIMPINA marking. Originating in Ploiesti, they went via Cimpina to Timisul-de-Sus, and reached Johanides Oil Refinery in Brasov. These 3 letters belong to the December 1853 - May 1854 period. At that time the Austrian Post had not yet opened its consular post office in Ploiesti, and its military field post office did not come into being until December 1854. It is assumed that these 3 letters were carried privately from Ploiesti to Cimpina and there placed in the "Austrian Post bag," which was then conveyed by the Romanian entrepreneur for the route to the Austrian border. In Timisul-de-Sus (Ober-Tomos) the Austrian Post bag was handed over to the Austrian post office, established there in 1846 to receive and dispatch mail.

One of these letters carry the 3 Kr. 1850 Austrian issue stamp (fee covering a distance of up to 30 miles from Timis to Brasov).

The third letter, was registered, and bears-in accord with the postal rates of that time - a 3 Kr. stamp on the front and a 6 Kr. stamp on the back. On the back are also found the markings of the respective agencies, with the registration number in the center, next to the date (day and month). This registered letter is No. 1258, dated December 30, 1853. It left Cimpina the same day and reached Timisul-de-Sus, according to the date of the Ober-Tomos postmark, on December 3, 1853 and its final destination Brasov (Kronstadt) on January 1, 1854. From the registration number we can conclude that in 1853 the STAROSTIE IN KIMPINA handled approximately 1258 registered letters.

**Fig. 1. BARLAD**

Another registered letter showing No. 391, of May 30, 1854, reached Ober-Tomos on this same day and then Brasov (Kronstadt) on May 31, 1854. All stamps on these letters show the departure postmark of Ober-Tomos and the arrival postmark of Kronstadt.

Still later, another letter was discovered (with a later date) addressed to "K.K. GENERAL STAROSTIE IN BAKEU" Also known are printed documents of "K.K. GENERAL KONSULAT AGENZIE UND STAROSTIE IN MICHAILENI". Another letter was directed via "UNTEREN DONAU CORDONS COMANDO" in ALT-ORSOVA (Orsova-Veche) on October 30, 1857, and addressed to "LOBL.KAISER.KONIGLICHE OSTER.AGENZIE STAROSTIE ZU KRAJOVA". It is well known that in Craiova, long before 1837, a STAROSTIE agency existed which also undertook postal services. Its marking was discovered by D. Passalega of Craiova, together with other previously unknown and interesting data (see FILATELIA No. 12/1971). This article clearly demonstrates that this Starostie was already handling mail in 1837. In this article "K.K.AGENZIE in Bucharest" in fact means the Consular Post Office in Bucharest.

In 1970, I came across a 2 volume study, published in Vienna in 1876, by Eugen Friedenfels, entitled: Joseph Bedeus von Scharberg - BEITRAGE ZUR ZEITGESCHICHTE SIEBENBURGENS IM XIX JAHRHUNDERT". Page 114, Volume II, states that the Starostie agencies of CIMPULUNG, CRAIOVA, PITESTI, PLOIESTI, RIMNIC, TG.JIU and TIRGOVISTE gave assistance in finding refuge in the Romanian Principalities to those who left Transylvania during the 1848 Revolution. This is further proof that such Starostie agencies existed in the Principalities as long ago as 1848. They were also operating in other towns besides those recorded in this book.

An old publication of the Timisoara Postal Administration records that a similar agency also existed in TURNU-SEVERIN, with duties of handling mail and packages. It is assumed that its role was to collaborate with the DDSG (Donau Dampfschiffart Gesellschaft).

Moreover, two other Starostie agencies have been identified through documents: BIRLAD (Barlad - Berlad) and VASLUI (Waslui). The documents refer to the time of the Austrian occupatpon, during the Crimean War. As already mentioned, these agencies collaborated with the Austrian military forces.

In short, 14 Starostie agencies are now known. We have recorded below the earliest year in which they were known to have functioned, which does not preclude the possibility that they were active even before. We must assume that there existed still other such agencies not yet discovered.

1. Bacau (Bakeu)
2. Birlad 1856 (Barlad-Berlad)
3. Cimpina 1853 (Kimpina)
4. Cimpulung 1848
5. Craiova 1837 (Kraiowa, Krajova)
6. Mihaileni (Michaileni)
7. Pitesti 1848 (Piteschti)
8. Ploiesti 1848 (Ployest)
9. Rimnic V. 1848
10. Roman
11. Tg. Jieu 1848
12. Tirgoviste 1848
13. Turnu-Severin
14. Vaslui 1865 (Waslui).

**Fig. 2. KIMPINA**

However, Starostie markings are so far known from only 5 such agencies. These are administrative markings and are applied on the backs of letters, in black ink.

They are oval or circular and of various sizes.:

**Birlad** (Figure 1) K.K.AGENTIE STAROSTIE ZU BARLAD (oval, 27x31 mm., Austrian arms), **Cimpina** (Figure 2) K.K.AGENZIE STAROSTIE IN KIMPINA (oval, 23.4x30.2 mm., Austrian arms), **Craiova** (Figure 3) K.K.OESTR.AGENZIE STAROSTIE IN KRAIOWA (oval, 29x32 mm., Austrian arms), **Ploiesti** (Figure 4) K.K.AGENTIE STAROSTIE ZU PLOYEST (circular, Austrian arms), **Vaslui** (Figure 5) K.K.AGENTIE U.GRAL.CONS.STAROSTIE ZU WASLUI (oval, 35x31 mm., Austrian arms).

Fig. 3. KRAIOWA

Fig. 4. PLOYEST

Fig. 5. WASLUI

The 1854 letter (Figure 6), with the KIMPINA Starostie marking was posted in Ploiesti, went via Cimpina to Timisul-de-Sus in order to reach Brasov. Franked with an 1850 Austrian 3 Kr., it was cancelled by the OBER-TOMOS (Timisul-de-SUS) Austrian post office.

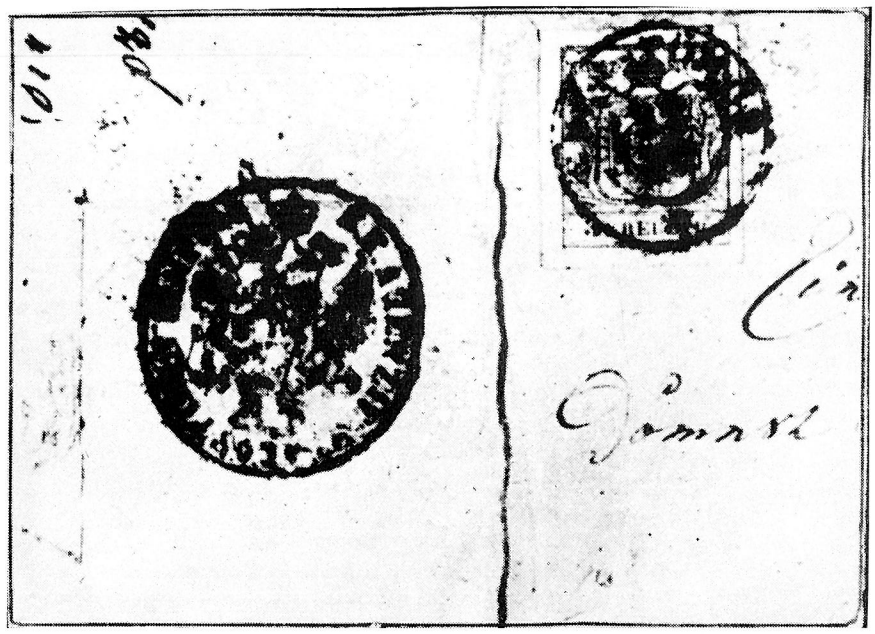


Fig. 6. KIMPINA and OBER-TOMOS

Of the markings mentioned, only those in KIMPINA and PLOYEST are on mail, while the others were on administrative documents.

The chief officer of such a Starostie was called a "K.K.Starost" (Imperial and Royal Starost). We know the names of 3 such officials: in KRAIOWA in 1837 - Andreas Schwab; in BARLAD in 1856 - Wolinski; and in PLOYEST before 1856 - Gensert.

The Starostie agency was in fact a consular unit, a type of sub-office which the Austrian consular authorities utilized in smaller townships. Entrusted to Austrian nationals residing there, the agencies assumed the same official functions as consular offices and, therefore handled mail. In localities where Austria did not maintain a post office, these agencies linked in with the postal network to insure mail transport. They received, dispatched and distributed letters and even packages. The actual transport was undertaken by Romanian postal entrepreneurs via the "Austrian Post bag". For this service the entrepreneurs received the fees provided for in their serived contracts.

From all the above we must conclude that the Starostie agencies handled mail. As only two letters have been found (from KIMPINA and PLOYEST), we must conclude that only a few of the agencies used their administrative markings on mail entrusted to them. This assumption enhances the rarity of such items.

We do not know the reason why these agencies were called STAROSTIE. It could be the result of Slavic influence, as Staroste signifies chief officer of a given territorial unit (Poland) or of a marginal district (Moldavia). There is no doubt that Starostie agencies were consular sub-offices in smaller townships.

In towns where, after the Crimean War, consular post offices were opened, the Starostie agencies ceased their activities:

In BAKEU on July 3, 1859; in BARLAD on July 3, 1859; in PLOYEST on April 1, 1858; in ROMAN on July 3, 1858.

The other Starostie agencies were closed at the same time as the consular post offices, on March 31, 1869.

**(Note by Dr. L.N. Cristea)**

For collectors and postal history students interested in the Starostie agencies we would like to mention a short note, signed by Iulian Constantin of Craiova in FILATELIA No. 8/1979. This note, which illustrates the Turnu-Severin Starostie agency marking, (Figure 7) contains a slight inaccuracy. In paragraph 5, he states that 3 markings are known on covers: from KIMPINA, KRAIOWA and PLOYEST. In fact, only those of KIMPINA and PLOYEST are known on covers. Constantin has discovered a letter with the TURNU SEVERIN marking (K.K.OESTR.AGENTIE STAROSTIE ZU TURN SEVERIN), (double circle, 34.5x26.5 mm., Austrian coat-of-arms), but its cover is not known. Therefore, there is only a presumption, and not a certainty, that the marking was also applied on the cover of this letter. Thereby, so far only two of such markings are known on covers.

Fig. 7. TURNU SEVERIN

## Romanian Philatelic Periodicals Additions

**Silviu Dragomir**

I would like to add to the list of "Romanian Philatelic Periodicals" published in No. 1/1981 of this bulletin the following:

1. **LE PHILATELISTE ORIENTAL**-(?) Galati; 1895.

2. **LA ROUMANIE PHILATELIQUE**-Gaesti; November 1908-January 1909, 2 issues, 16 pages each.

3. **L'ANNONCE PHILATELIQUE D'ORIENT**-Braila; 1910, for dealers and collectors.

4. **L'ORIENT TIMBROLOGIQUE**-Ploiesti; July 1920-May 1921, 6 issues. No. 5 has the title: CLUBUL ORIENTUL FILATELIC and No. 6: BULETINUL SOCIETATII "ORIENTUL FILATELIC". Director: I.A. Georgescu.

5. **ELITA**-Bucharest; 1922, 2 issues (January and May) of 16 pages, in Romanian and French. Director: Sebastian Constantinescu.

6. **LA REVUE CARTOPHILE ET TIMBROPHILE**-Craiova; 1922, quarterly; published 3 issues of 4-18 pages. Director: George Georgescu.

7. **CURIERUL FILATELIC**-Ploiesti; November 1922-January 1923, issues of 16-18 pages. Director: I.G. Vermont.

8. **ROUMANIE ECHANGE**-Caracal; November 1922-May 1924, published 4 issues of 8 pages. Director: Nicolaie Steriopol.

9. **FILATELIA ROMAN**-Bucharest; 1923, published on issue.

10. **ECHANGE CLUN ROUMAIN**-Bucharest; June 1, 1923-January 1, 1925, published 7 issues in Romanian, French and German.

11. **BULLETIN OFFICIEL DU "ROUMANIE"**-Bucharest; quarterly, No. 2 of April 1, 1928 published in 20 pages.

12. **LA ROUMANIE**-Craiova; 1928-1932, quarterly, published 6 issues (3 double issues) in French. Director: I.B. Stoiculescu.

13. **LE COURRIER MONDIAL**-Bucharest; 1932, 2 issues, Director: C. Cotea.

14. **UNIVERSAL COURRIER**-Arad; quarterly, January 1935-March 1937, published 7 issues in Romanian, German, English and French.

15. **PHILAMONDA**-Diciosinmartin (Banat); 1935, 3 issues. Director: M. Michael Loeb.

16. **ARHIVA CARTOFILA**-Bucharest; 1936-1937.

17. **STELLA POLARIS**-Bucharest; from 1968 to date, published every 2 months, cca 40 issues.

Even with these 17 additions to the original list of 56, the list of Romanian Philatelic Publications is still not complete; any further additions should be sent to the editor.

## † GRIGORE RACOVICEANU

Grigore Racoviceanu, the dean of the Romanian philatelic researchers, passed away in January 1981. He devoted 60 years of his long and productive life to the study of the Romanian postmarks. His monograph "Postal Cancellations Used in Romania until 1881" (published in 1963 in Bucharest) is the first scholarly work on this subject and the starting point for any further research and through his work he will be remembered for ever.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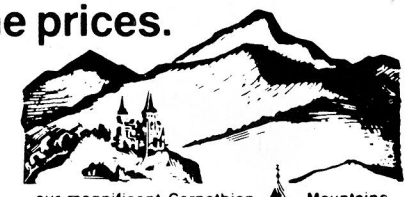

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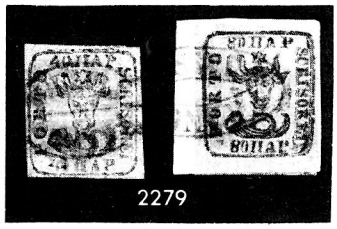
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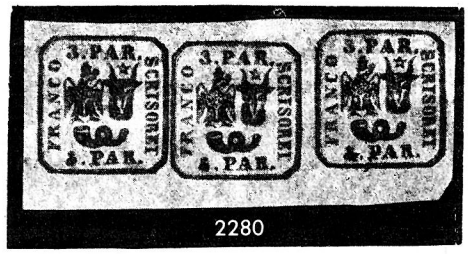
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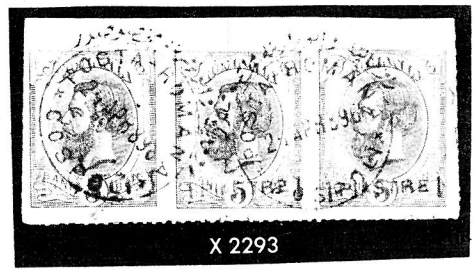
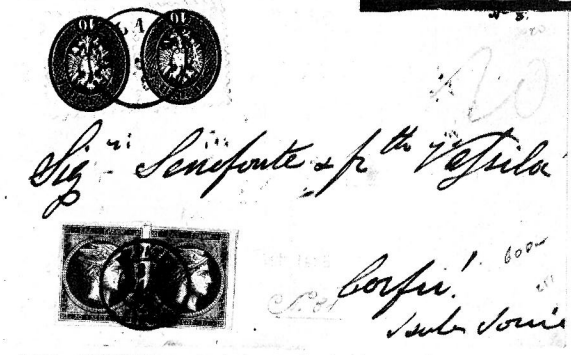

X 2293

| Lot Number | | ROMANIA | PRICES REALIZED | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2278 ★ | **1859** | #9. 40pa blue, wide margins, v.f. .....**(Photo)** | 110.00 | **40.00** |
| 2279 ○ | **1859** | #9, 10. Both w/4 mrgs., latter tied to piece. V.f. .**(Photo)** | 185.00 | **60.00** |
| 2280 ★ | **1862** | #15. 3pa, horiz. strip of 3, mrgs. all around. O.g., v.f. .-**(Photo)** | 120.00+ | **85.00** |
| 2281 ○ | **1862** | #16, 18. 6pa, 30fa, both w/4 mrgs. F-.v.f. .....**(Photo)** | 120.00 | **34.00** |
| 2282 ○ | **1862** | #17, 18. Both w/wide margins. V.f. .....**(Photo)** | 100.00+ | **60.00** |
| 2289 ★ | **1930** | (#C8). Imperf. vertical pair. O.g., v.f. .....**(Photo)** | — | **140.00** |
| 2290 ★ | **1930** | #C8a. Vertical pair, imperf. between. O.g., v.f. ..**(Photo)** | 200.00 | **75.00** |
| 2293 ○ | **1896** | **Offices in Turkey.** (#6). Error: 1pi on 5b instead of 25b in strip of 3, tied to piece. Also #1. F.-v.f. .....**(Photo)** | — | **115.00** |

**PLEASE NOTE, a 10% commission surcharge will be added to the purchase price of each lot purchased.**

EDITOR'S NOTE: The imperforate vertical pair (lot 2289) of Scott #C8 is not listed by any catalogue. It can be presumed that this pair was produced by trimming off the perforation of a vertical pair, imperforate between (Scott #C8a), such as lot 2290.

## FROM A Philastamps AUCTION



*232)* GREECE pair of 10 l. (20) used as postage dues on entire from Gallatz insufficiently prepaid with pair of Lombardy-Venetia 10 soldi blue. A magnificent and most desirable letter *SF. 2.500*

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**ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI** (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine **FILATELIA** is available through the editor.

**A 624-page ROMANIAN POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE '74, by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu, is available from the editor to members of the Romanian Philatelic Club for $25.00.**

# ROMANIAN PARCEL POST STAMPS

George Pataki

These stamps (Scott#Q1-7) were used to collect postage fees for mailing of packages, sample merchandise, cash as well as on money orders. Two distinct designs were used: the first from September 15, 1895 to December 31, 1908, and the second from 1928 to 1932. Between 1909 and 1928, and after 1932, the mailing fee for the above mentioned items was paid in cash.

The design of the first issues resembles that of the 1881 postage due stamps except that its text on top reads "TAXA DE FACTAGIU" instead of "TAXA DE PLATA". At left, "POSTA", sideways, reads upwards while at right, "ROMANA", also sideways, reads downwards. The bottom cartouche contains the currency, "BANI", between 2 small stars. In the center, within an oval frame, is the denomination "25", while the 4 corner boxes show postal horns. Outside the oval frame are stylized ornaments. The size of the stamp is 30 x 26 mm. while the size of the design is 27.5 x 23 mm. The stamps were delivered to post offices in panes of 50.

The pseudo-watermark on the 1895 printing is in relief and was imprinted after the paper had been fabricated. Stamps of the 1905 printing, with fragments of "JOHANNOT ET CIE ANNONAY" (the name and town of the French paper company) watermark came from sheet margin copies.

An imperforate proof is known, in black on unwatermarked cream paper.

According to the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974, there are 6 issues of the first design, on various papers and various colors, etc. as follows:

| YEAR | DENOM. | COLOR | PAPER | WATERMARK | PERFORATION | REMARKS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1895 (Sept. 15) | 25 BANI | brown red | thin yellowish or white; also horiz. laid | pseudo-wmk. small coat-of arms with top left or right | line: 11½; 11½x13½; 13½x11½; 13½ | |
| 1896 | 25 BANI | vermilion | yellowish or white | idem | idem | known tete-beche |
| 1898 (Oct.) | 25 BANI | vermilion or brown red | medium or thick white | large 14½ mm "PR" | idem | known tete-beche and, with one perf. on 3 sides but another on 4th side. |
| 1899 | 25 BANI | idem | ribbed | large "PR" reversed | line: 11½x13½; 13½x11½; 13½ | |
| 1905 | 25 BANI | vermilion | thin white tinted rose on back | fragments of JOHANNOT ET CIE ANNONAY (scarce) | line 11½; 11½x13½; 13½x11½. | known imperf. (very rare); vert. pair imperf. horiz. |
| 1908 | 25 BANI | idem | white | — | line: 11½; 13; | |

On December 31, 1908, these parcel post stamps, were withdrawn; in October 1938, "Ferdinand" type, 10 Bani, light yellowish-green stamps (Scott#263, which had been issued Sept. 9, 1923) were overprinted in carmine or red "FACTAJ 5 LEI". The three-line overprint presents various varieties. There are 2 types of the numeral "5": one with long "tail", the other with shorter "tail", both being found on the same sheet. There is also a variety with closed loop of the numeral "5". The word "LEI" displays 4 varieties classified by width, height and color:

1. 16 x 10½ mm., carmine,
2. 16 x 10½ mm., brick red,
3. 15½ x 11 mm., brick red,
4. 17½ x 9 mm., brick red.

There are also various spacings between the 3 lines.

Inverted overprints are known only on used stamps, originating from one single sheet sold at one of the post offices. Horizontally or vertically shifted and incomplete overprints have also been reported.

These stamps were printed by the "Fabrica de Timbre" (Stamp Printing Works), Bucharest, in sheets of 200, but the sheets were cut in half and the stamps delivered in sheets of 100 (10 x 10).

Their characteristics are as follows:

| YEAR | DENOM. | COLOR | PAPER | WATERMARK | PERFORATION | REMARKS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1928 | 5 LEI | light yellowish-green | white | — | comb; 13½x14 | known wmk. horiz. line. |

In 1932, these, the last of the Romanian parcel post stamps, were withdrawn and once again the postage fees for packages, sample merchandise, etc. were paid in cash, closing a chapter in Romanian philately.

REPRINTED FROM LINN'S STAMP NEWS, January 26, 1981

# 'CASTEL PELES' postmark proves letter postally used

By George Pataki
Romanian Philatelic Club

At a stamp show, checking a dealer's stock, I noticed a cover bearing stamps on both sides, all obliterated with a double circle measuring 30.5 millimeters and 18.5mm in diameter and featuring a large posthorn ornament and "CASTEL PELES" postmark dated "23 NOV 903."

A registered letter, it bears the registration label of the same post office with a large red letter "R" and smaller black "CASTELUL PELES No. . . ." with the registration number "267" handwritten in black ink.

On the envelope's reverse are two arrival markings — the first, a magenta double oval with "NEW YORK, N.Y." at top and illegible at bottom, dated 12-5-1903; the second, a grayish rectangular-framed "STATION - ??, NEW YORK, N.Y."

What attracted my attention was the "CASTEL PELES" marking. I know it pertained to the post office of the royal palace located near the city of Sinaia.

At a closer look, I noticed that on both the flap of the envelope and the enclosed letter was an insignia with a golden crown and gold letters on a light blue background in an ornamental golden frame reading, "CASTEL PELES," with the initials "C" and "P" beautifully stylized.

There was no doubt that the letter had originated from the royal household, and it was postally used and not made for pure philatelic purposes.

The cover is addressed to "Master Lawrence Kohn, 132 Manhattan Ave New York N.Y. Statele Unite de America." The last words, incorrectly spelled, translate "United States of America."

The letter has a few words in poor English, "Some nice stamps I am sending you./Carol./ 9/22 1903."

The writing is that of a young child unfamiliar with the English language. At that time, one of the residents of the royal palace was Prince Carol, son of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie. Carol was born in 1893; thus, when he wrote this letter, he was 10 years old.

On the other side of the letter were glued eight mint stamps of the Mailcoach issue (1 ban, 10b, 15b, 25b, 40b and 50b, a complete set of Scott 158-65) and four mint values of the New Post Office issue (15b, 25b, 1 leu and 5l, Scott 166, 167, 170, 172).

Both these sets were issued in 1903. One additional stamp is missing. The spot where it was glued can be easily noticed.

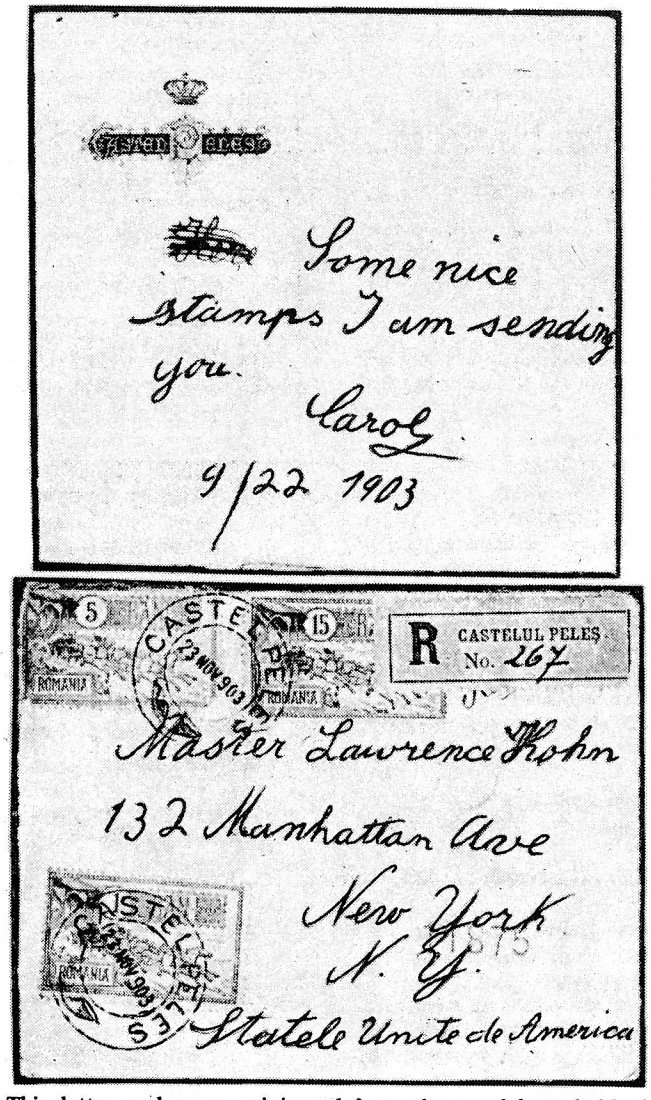
The cover also bears Mailcoach issues — three on the front (1b, 5b, 15b) and seven on the back (four 1b, one 5b and two 10b). Therefore, the entire franking totaled 50b.

The only question that can be raised is why the letter, written on Sept. 22, was not postmarked until two months later on Nov. 23.

Carol of Hohenzollern became crown prince in 1914 upon the death of his father, King Ferdinand, but in 1926, he renounced his rights to the throne and left Romania with his mistress, Magda Lupescu.

He returned to the throne June 8, 1930, as King Carol II, but on Sept. 6, 1940, was forced to abdicate in favor of his son, Michael.

Carol II was a well-known philatelist, and in 1940, when he left Romania, he took with him as part of his huge accumulated wealth his valuable stamp collection. He lived in Portugal and died there in 1953.




**This letter and cover originated from the royal household of Romania.**

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# ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

**Vol. 5, No. 3, 1981**

**Published by the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB**

**A.P.S. Affiliate No. 88**

**EDITOR: GEORGE PATAKI, 84-47 KENDRICK PLACE, JAMAICA ESTATES, N.Y. 11432**

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## A POSTAL-HISTORICAL DOCUMENT

**LADISLAU ROTHMAN, 29 Metzada Street, Ramat Gan, Israel**

After Poland's defeat by the Nazi Germany, in 1939, part of the Polish army took refuge in Romania, a country which before the war had maintained good-neighbor relations with Poland. At that time, Romania was still a neutral in the major European conflict. However, to not upset Germany, it could not let the Polish belligerents free. The enlisted men were thus confined to a camp in TG. JIU, while officers were in another camp in CALIMANESTI. Calimanesti is a beautiful resort area in the Carpathian Mountains and the Polish officers had privileged treatment under the circumstances.

We present here a postcard mailed from the officers' camp in Calimanesti. Written October 29, 1940, it bears a CALIMANESTI departure cancellation dated October 31, 1940. Mailed to Haifa, Palestine (today Israel), it unfortunately does not show an arrival marking but its arrival is proven by two British mandate hexagonal censor markings; one is numbered "H.9", the other "I.22", both in light violet. The double censorship of this card is interesting.

The postcard also bears a double circle (the outside circle, 29 mm. in diameter, is thicker than the inside one which is 27 mm. in diameter) administrative marking of that camp, with Romania's coat-of-arms in the center and a text reading: "Romania, Lagarul Ofiteri Poloni Calimanesti" (Romania, Polish Officers Camp Calimanesti).

There are also two rectangular markings, both in light red. One (50x10 mm.) is bilingual on two lines, one Romanian and the other French, with the text reading: "Luptator internat" and "Belligerant interne" (Interned belligerent). The other marking (43x8 mm.) has the word "NEFRANCAT" (unfranked) as the correspondence of the P.O.W.'s did not need to be franked.

This interesting item belongs to the "Romania" collection of Mr. Farchi of Tel-Aviv, Israel.

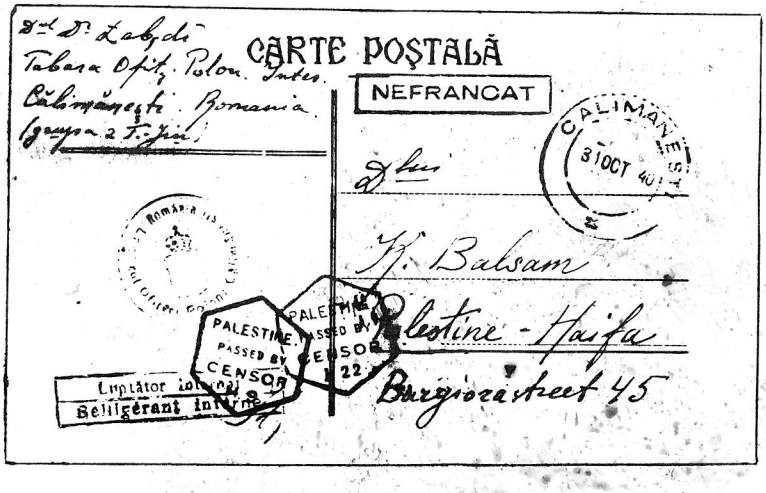
## More on ASSISTANCE STAMPS

**Dr. Eng. Ilie C. Demetrescu,**
**Str. Tg. Neamt No. 24, bl.Td 38, apt. 38, 77486 Bucharest, Romania.**

The R.P.S. No. 3/1980 article on "assistance stamps" presented the so-called "Emperor Trajan" or "Assistance Stamps for Transylvanians", consisting of one denomination (10 bani) printed in either of two colors: rose or olive green. These were printed on thin, yellowish-white, unwatermarked paper. Exceptionally, items occur on the watermarked paper described in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 as type X; this paper shows a single vertical or horizontal line. I have in my collection a block of four, rose on yellowish-white paper, having a vertical watermark line on the left vertical pair, the right vertical pair being unwatermarked.

Many philatelists consider such issues of little importance, not deserving the name of stamps, and call them vignettes. Nevertheless, such items on covers and postcards, obliterated with cancellations used at that time, are of philatelic value.

These unofficial assistance stamps were issued in 1915 (for voluntary use)



through the initiative and under the supervision of the great Romanian historian Nicolae Iorga, the founder and president of "Liga Pentru Unitatea Culturala a Tuturor Romanilor" (Pan-Romanian Cultural Unity League). Funds collected through the sale of these stamps were supposedly for assistance to World War I refugees from Transylvania.

At the beginning of the spring of 1945, I chanced to meet Zaharia Florian, one of the distinguished directors of the Romanian National Bank. Mr. Florian, being a stamp collector, showed me color proofs for this issue and a handwritten letter from Iorga to the Carol Goebel Printing Works of Bucharest, in which Iorga chose rose and olive green as the colors to be used. The proofs - in singles and pairs - numbered seven and were in the following colors: rose, reddish brown, olive green, blue, reddish violet, violet gray and blackish violet. Mr. Florian retained the pairs but gave me the singles. In April 1945, my friend Zaharia Florian suddenly passed away. About 15 years later, the same proofs in pairs were offered for sale to me. I bought them and gave the singles to another collector. Aside from the above, I have never come across other proofs of these.

My pairs of color proofs differ from the actual stamps on several counts. The paper

is finer and is white; they are imperforate; the guide lines for perforation located on the stamps' margins are missing on the proofs; and the proofs have (one or two) large sheet markings. When there are 2 such sheet markings they for a right angle and originate for the sheet corners. My proofs are from various sheet positions: the reddish brown and the blackish violet come from the upper right corner; the blue is taken from the lower right corner; the rose and the violet gray from the lower left corner while the olive green and the reddish violet originate from the bottom row.

Iorga's manuscript letter, mentioned above, could not be located despite my efforts to find it. Not even Mrs. Lucia Bancheriu-Florian, Florian's widow, could give me any clue as to the whereabouts of this valuable document. Furthermore, I could not learn who designed the stamps, who engraved the cliches, nor how many stamps were printed.

Petre Murea, who at that time was a post office clerk, states (in "Istoricul Timbrelor Postale Romanesti", Timisoara 1938, page 375) that these stamps were sold primarily at post offices. However, covers or postcards bearing these stamps (besides the required postage stamps), obliterated with postal cancellations, are very scarce, mainly because their use was voluntary and not many people used them. Furthermore, the General Directorate of Romanian Posts, although having permitted sale of these through its offices, ordered clerks (memorandum No. 72408/1914) "not to obliterate anything other than postage stamps in circulation, while the various kinds of vignettes affixed on mail should be left in circulation without applying on them any dated postmark". Despite this interdiction, a small number of items with obliterated assistance stamps slipped through. I possess such a cover. Page 375 of Murea's book likewise illustrates such a stamp cancelled "17 OCT 1915". Such oversight by postal service employees can be excused because of the haste taken in their work.

# More on PROHIBITED TO CENSOR Marking

**MIRCEA TELEGUT,** Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timisoara, Romania.

Regarding Silviu Dragomir's note in Romanian Philatelic Studies No. 1/1981 on "Curious Censor Markings", I illustrate here a postal card with one of its markings similar in content but not quite identical to the one described there.

The postal card, Michel #312, type VI (Ganzachen Katalog, Deutschland 1977), was mailed from Vienna, Austria, on March 19, 1944, to Timisoara, Romania, where it arrived on April 3, 1944 (therefore, during World War II).

The marking presented by Mr. Dragomir has the same text "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" (prohibited to censor) as the one on my postal card, but in addition it has also the place where it was applied (BUCURESTI) and a number designating the particular censor or censor's office (3).

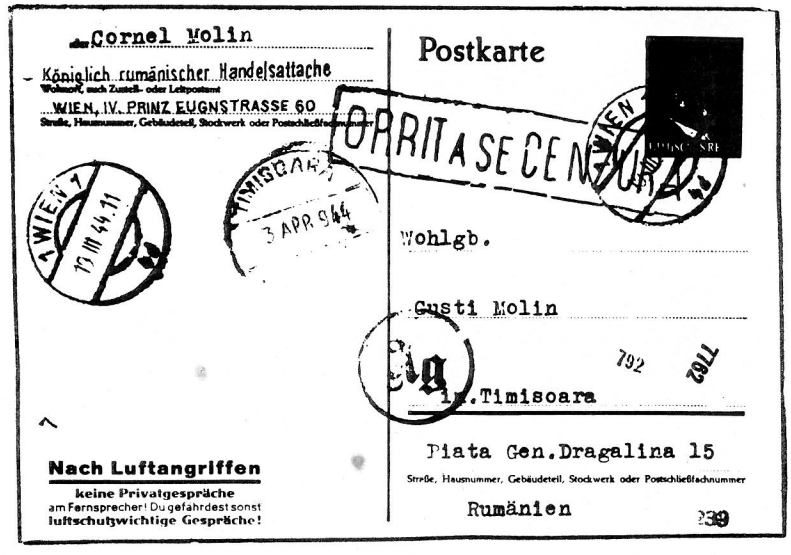
The "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" marking applied on this card is red in a 70x15 mm. frame. I presume it was applied upon departure from Vienna and not upon its arrival in Timisoara, from where, so far, no use of such marking was reported. I make this presumption based on the following: the sender - an employee of the Romanian consulate in Vienna - applied an administrative marking, 28 mm. in diameter, also in red, with the text: "Koniglich Rumanischer Handelsattache, Wien" (Royal Romanian Trade Attache, Vienna) and Romania's coat-of-arms in the center (not visible on the photo).

The red ink of this marking seems to be of the same shade and appearance as that of the "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" marking (which was retouched on this photograph). Therefore, I believe that both of these markings were applied at the same time, and at the same place, specifically in Vienna, Austria.

This type of "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" marking was thus used by the Romanian diplomatic corps to bring to the attention of the internal authorities that it was prohibited to censor such diplomatic mail.

The facts that in this case, the marking was applied on private correspondence (written by the commercial attache to his wife), and that it did not make much sense to apply it on an open postal card, does not change its value as a piece of Romanian postal history.

A different usage of this "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" marking was found on a cover mailed from Paris on November 20, 1941, to Bucharest. Its arrival on February 24, 1942, is attested to by a postmark, 28 mm. in diameter, with the text: "OF.(iciul)



SP.(ecial) G.(ara) NORD AMB.(ulant) BUCURESTI RECOMANDATE SOSITE EX-T.(erne)" (Special Office, Northern Travelling Railroad Station, Bucharest Registered Arrivals Foreign).

The cover, opened at left by the German censor, was resealed with a tape reading: "Geoffnet Oberkommando der Wermacht" (Opened by Army High Command). The Romanian censor reopened it, this time on the right, and resealed it with a band reading "CENZURA ROMANIA" (Romania Censorship) depicting the country's coat-of-arms. Over this band was affixed a vignette with a monogram "BNR" in the center and a text reading "Banca Nationala a Romaniei - Bucuresti" (Romanian National Bank - Bucharest) in red letters on black background. This proves that the cover which contained stamps mailed by a dealer in Paris to one in Bucharest, was opened (and resealed) once more by the bank which controlled such transactions.

This cover's "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" marking was probably applied by the bank to stop further openings which might spoil or "loss" of its philatelic contents.

I would be grateful for any comments and/or additions to this subject.

**REVIEW:**

## ALMANAHUL FILATELIC 1981

**(Philatelic Almanac 1981)**

Published by Rompresfilatelia, Bucharest; 232 pages; 17 lei.

As in the previously published philatelic almanacs, this also has something for everybody: political editorials and patriotic poems without any philatelic content, philatelic articles - even a couple of advanced studies, anecdotes, short stories, crossword puzzles, epigrams, cartoons, etc.

The following articles are interesting and educational:
"How the Republic's First Postage Stamp was Produced" by Dr. T. Cutlic; "The ,'Thimble' Classical Postmark" by Leonard Pascanu; "About Famous Collections" by Dr. Nicolae Tripcovici; "The First Constantinople-Bucharest Postal Connection" by Mihail Popovici; "Overprinted Romanian Stamps (1948-1980)" by Prof. Sergiu Gabureac; "The Constanta-Cernavoda D.B.S.R. English Posts" by Dr. Emanoil Munteanu; "The Paris-Bucharest Issues as a Specialized Study Collection" by Em. Savoiu; "Postal Service in Oltenia During the 19th Century" by Dumitru Passalega; "The 3 Issues of the 'Jassy Circle' of Bucharest" by Dr. Oscar Snak; "The Overprints of the Romanian Posts in Constantinople" by Dr. Marcel Sapira; "Romanian 'First Day of Issue' Cancellations" by Dr. Valeriu S. Neaga; "Free Mailing During the War of Independence" by Grigore Racoviceanu; "Rember - the First Romanian Philatelic Society" by Silviu Dragomir.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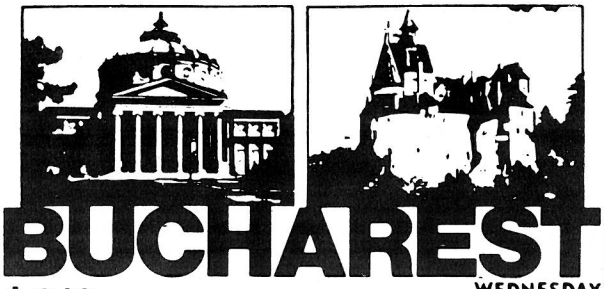

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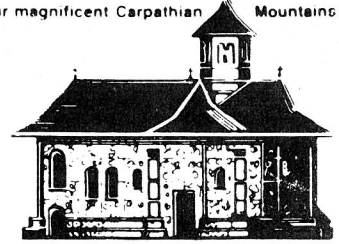

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# NEW DATA ON SOME OLD ROMANIAN POSTMARKS

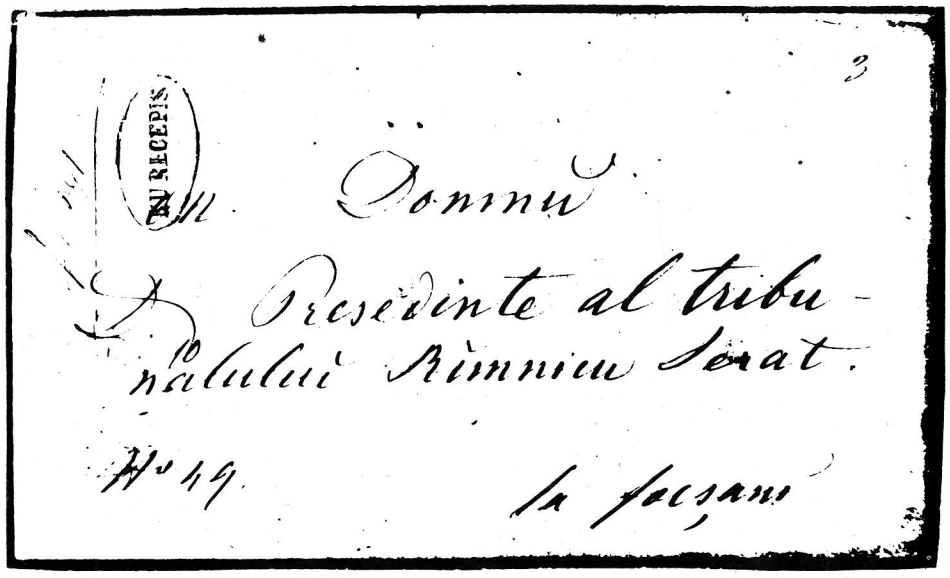
**DUMITRU PASSALEGA , Aleea Brancusi, bl.A2, sc.2, et.II, apt. 9, 1100 Craiova, Romania**

There are many more good articles - entertaining reading material for those who understand the Romanian language.

I would like to draw attention to some little-known or unknown aspects of Romanian postmarks of the pre-philatelic and classic periods.

**I. BUCAREST/WALACHEI** (circular, dated postmark) and **KU RECEPIS** (framed oval).

The BUCAREST/WALACHEI postmark is well known both in its initial form (with Walachei) and its second phase (without Walachei). In ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES (No. 3/1979, page 12) Dr. L.N. Cristea listed 58 items used in 1861 (with Walachei) and 50 used in 1862 (without Walachei). Amongst the items with Bucharest/Walachei marking there are a couple also bearing the oval KU RECIPIS marking, the registration marking of that time. Although we have been told that these markings were used in Bucharest, through research I found that all letters thus cancelled were actually sent from Bucharest only in the direction of Ploiesti-Buzau-Urziceni-Focsani-Braila-Galati or beyond (Jassy) or arrived from there.




In 1860 through May 1862, when these letters were mailed, as it had been previously, the letter service, both in Walachia and Oltenia (Little Walachia) was entrusted to private entrepreneurs. These, having obtained state permits and contracts through public auctions, were to run the service. The auctions and contracts were for well defined sections of routes (August 1, 1856 - August 1, 1861) or for "roads" (August 1, 1861 - May 1, 1862).

A Ministry of Finance report (No. 9932) of July 21, 1861, addressed to the Council of Ministers and a second one (No. 9938) of the same date addressed to the Ruler (Prince Cuza), as well as the "List of Postal-Stations", all show that in 1860-62 the "sections of routes" and "roads" Nos. 1 and 2, along which mail for Ploiesti-Predeal-Buzau-Focsani-Braila-Galati-Iasi etc. was transported, were all let out to one and the same entrepreneur called PARASCHIVA GHEORGHE; other sections or roads to Tirgoviste-Oltenita-Calarasi-Giurgiu-Craiova (via Slatina)-Pitesti-R. Valcea were apportioned to other entrepreneurs (Pana Olanescu, Nicolae Alexescu, Gheorghe Zissu). I have not yet found letters with the BUCAREST/WALACHEI or KU RECEPIS markings, either addressed to or coming from the latter towns mentioned, and thus transported by other entrepreneurs. The only explanation can be that the entrepreneur of roads No. 1 and 2 had obtained a new circular marking towards the end of 1860. This was similar to the Austrian postmarks of the time. He also got the KU RECEPIS marking, which then signified more than mere registration, as it also insured a notice of receipt by the addressee. The entrepreneur of these two roads ordered that all private mail be thus postmarked on departure from or arrival in Bucharest.

Barring proof to the contrary, we must assume that these two markings were used exclusively for roads No. 1 and 2.

**II. THE CORRECT WORDING OF THE "THE FRANCO BOTOSANI" MARKING.**

Postal fees for letters accompanying parcels or "grops" were paid in cash for the simple reason that no high denomination stamps existed. Thus in 1859-1865, post offices of BACAU, BOTOSANI, FOCSANI, IASI and TECUCI used special markings showing the word FRANCO (paid), and the amount (expressed in LEI and PAR) of the fee paid. Gr. Racoviceanu has classified these as type D.12. Of these, that of TECUCI is the rarest, while the most complex and interesting is, without doubt, that of BOTOSANI. Besides columns for weight (PONDERA, in CHIL and GR) and amount of fees (TAXA, in LEI and PAR), it also provided space for seals or initials (PECETE with COL and LITERE). These markings are rare and thus little known. Most people have accepted P. Murea's reproduction (in ISTORICUL TIMBRELOR POSTALE ROMANESTI - Timisoara 1938, page 360). But his reproduction is incorrect in that the third section's heading should read PECETE and not PESETE. This faulty version has been repeated in both Racoviceanu's book (STAMPILELE POSTALE FOLOSITE IN TARILE ROMINE PINA IN ANUL 1881 - Bucuresti 1963) and the new DICTIONAR FILATELIC, by Marcel Danescu (page 167).

**III. THE MEANING OF THE "N.A." MARKING.**

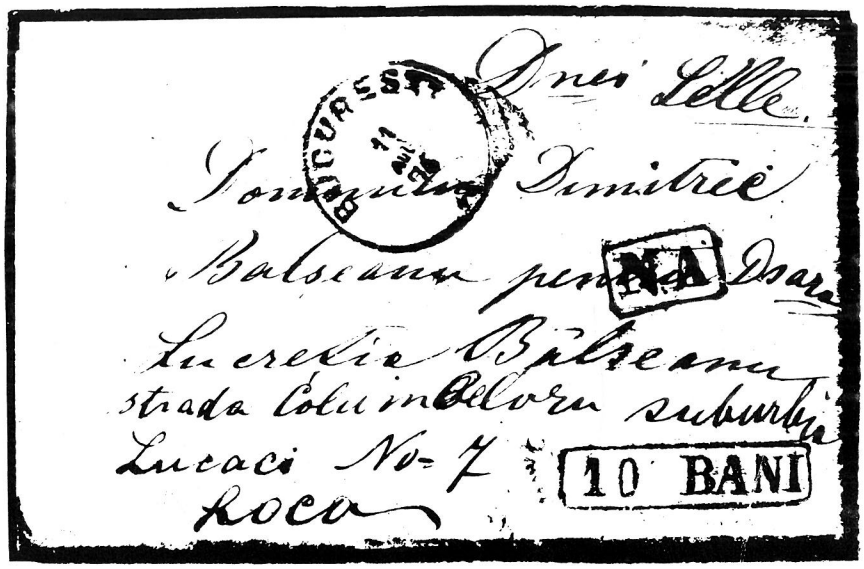
Covers from before 1876 have been found with an N.A. marking. What is the meaning of these initials? Gr. Racoviceanu (who lists this under type C.18 on page 62 of his above mentioned book) did not give any explanation. In 1978 the same author told us that the initials meant NE-ACHITAT (Not Paid). The same initials are said to signify "NECUNOSCUT la ADRESA" (Unknown at the Address) by the Philatelic Dictionary mentioned above (pages 169-170). The fact that all known covers bearing these "N.A." initials do not have

manuscript notes by the postman showing attempts to deliver them seems to eliminate this interpretation. Furthermore, "N.A." also appears on stampless covers, which bear the postage due marking. This suggests that the departure post office wanted to draw the attention of the receiving office to the fact that a fee should be charged upon delivery. Besides this, we have proof from an official document, Circular No. 9385/1875, of the General Post & Telegraph Office.

In Berne (Switzerland), on October 9, 1874, 22 states signed the Treaty for the General Postal Union and its regulations for practical applications. Article III concerns the use of the various markings. It states that on mail with no or only partial franking the letter "T" shall be struck and the fee be paid to the office of the originating country (see Monitorul Oficial No. 236 - 29.X./10.XI.1874). This treaty came into force on July 1, 1875. Among the practical instructions issued to Romanian post offices (to comply with the Berne Treaty) point 12 reads:

"On letters with no franking or only partial franking you shall strike the letter "T". This replaces markings used until now: N.A. (Non-Affranchi) and AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT" (Buletinul Telegrafo-Postal No. 7 of June 1, 1875, page 155 ff).

Thus we see official confirmation that "N.A." meant "Non-Affranchi". We illustrate here a letter dated August 11, 1875, with the "N.A." marking and the date postmark of the BUCURESTI post office dispatching the letter as well as the framed "10 BANI" postage due marking of the receiving post office.




# THE SECOND MOLDAVIA ISSUE (1858-1862) FRAUDULENTLY REUSED

**MIRCEA STANCULESCU, Calea Mosilor 88, Sc.B, Et.II, Apt.30, Bucharest, Romania.**

The second issue of Moldavia was in use between November 1, 1858 and May 5, 1862. In 1974, the late Onig Tulbengjian, a well-known student of Romania's classic stamps, drew attention to the fact that some of these stamps had been reused to the prejudice of the posts. The stamps had been again stuck on mail and recancelled (See Filatelia No. 1/1974, pg. 8).

Tulbengjian described four covers and a fragment, all from the BERLAD post office registered-mail counter. The dates of these items are: 10/4, 10/4, 26/9 and 2/10 on the letters and 20/4 on the fragment. The article illustrates the first three items.

The same matter was later mentioned by C. Spineanu in his article on the second issue of Moldavia, published in INDRUMATORUL FILATELISTULUI, Bucharest 1978, pp. 140-186. He lists five such covers and an 80 Par. stamp. Here are the details as listed in the article:

- Cover with three 40 Par. bluish paper stamps, cancelled BERLAD/MOLDOVA 10/9;
- Cover with four bluish paper 40 Par. cancelled BERLAD/MOLDOVA 11/4;
- Cover with two 40 Par. white paper stamps, cancelled BERLAD/MOLDOVA 26/9;
- Cover with two 40 Par. bluish paper stamps, each stamp having first received the FRANCO/JASSY marking and then recancelled BERLAD/MOLDOVA 23/10;
- Cover with a 80 Par. yellow paper stamp, type I, with initial cancellation GALATZ/MOLDOVA and recancelled BERLAD/MOLDOVA 2/10.
- Fragment of cover with a 40 Par. white paper stamp, cancelled BERLAD/MOLDOVA 20/10.

The illustrations used by the author make it clear that the date of the first cover is 10/4 and not 10/9; that of the second is 10/4 and not 11/4.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Four of these items are those previously mentioned by Tulbengjian. The fifth, the cover with 2 copies of the 40 Par. bluish paper, recancelled in BERLAD on 23/10 is stated to be the rarest. Spineanu does not disclose in whose collection this item reposed, nor did he publish a photo of it. Furthermore, he does not explain why he considers it the rarest. However, he does illustrate the fragment mentioned by Tulbengjian.

Some time after the above two articles appeared, I had the good fortune to aquire, and thus study, other reused stamps and covers of this issue, originating from the same BERLAD post office registered-mail counter:

Figure 1 shows a 40 Par. white paper stamps with BERLAD/MOLDOVA 17/9 cancellation in greenish black, under which one can discern the previous marking: FRANCO/JASSY (No. 2) in blue. Both are departure cancellations, as arrival markings were applied on the cover (not the stamp) - usually on the reverse side.

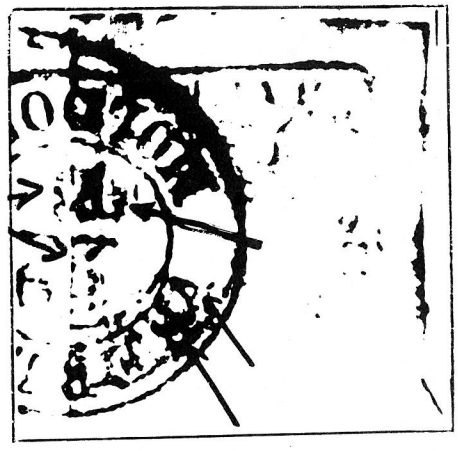


Figure 2 illustrates a fragment of cover bearing an 80 Par. type II stamp, with an initial cancellation WASLUI/MOLDOVA 8/8 in greenish black, over which one can see BERLAD/MOLDOVA 19/8 in the same greenish black ink.

Figure 3 depicts another item, from the Col. Pisoschi collection (Bucharest). A cover with two 80 Par. type II yellow paper stamps, bearing Registration No. 30, it is addressed to Jassy. The stamps are cancelled BERLAD/MOLDOVA 14/8. In the upper left corner we see the same BERLAD/MOLDOVA 14/8 cancellation. All of these postmarks, as well as the RECEPISSE (Registered) marking are in greenish blue. On the stamps one can still discern the previous cancellations - one is ROMAN/MOLDOVA, the other JASSY/MOLDOVA. On the right stamp only the initial Jassy cancellation can be seen while on the left stamp both cancellations (ROMAN/MOLDOVA and BERLAD/MOLDOVA) can be distinguished.

The above three items complete the list of such items so far known. They were fraudulently used by one of the post office employees at the registration counter of the Berlad post office.

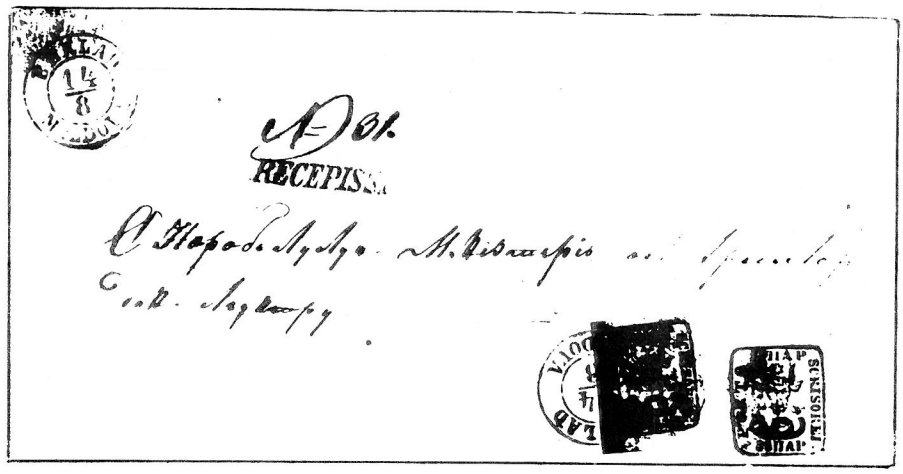


Fig. 3

Such dishonest practices lead to the introduction of new cancellers (FRANCO/township) of various shapes and sizes for every post office.

# POSTAL FRAUD IN WALACHIA

**Col. (rez.) DUMITRU PISOSCHI** P.O. Box 1-162, 70700 Bucharest, Romania

Attempts to cheat the posts also came to light in Walachia. So far collectors have not been able to find stamps, fragments or covers to prove this, but documentary evidence tells us that:

- On August 18, 1862, with Report No. 153, the postmaster of Bucharest submitted to the postmaster general a letter addressed to TASSE MURGESCU, in Caracal, "found in a letterbox, with a reused postage stamp". The report adds that the letter was sent by A. PANDELI, whose punishment is requested "for the attempts to defraud the posts."

- On September 27, 1862, he reported that the day before a letter had been found with a reused stamp. He requested "taking measures" against PAREMBLIS & Co.

- That same day it mentions and encloses a letter addressed to N. ATANASIU in Giurgiu, with a reused stamp, and requests "the necessary measures."

- Finally, we have the report of October 12, 1864, which submits return receipts nos. 61, 84, 88, 96, 98, 100, 936, 1180, 1162, 1120 and 1217, all with reused stamps. This report stresses the guilt of postal officials Vasilescu and Popovici.

As can be seen, franking controls were severe and the measures taken swift. Nevertheless, we should not preclude the possibility of still finding items with reused UNITED PRINCIPALITIES stamps of 1862/64.

We have brought to light these documents in order to stimulate assiduous research with - let us hope - some interesting and rewarding results.

**NOTE: The above two short papers were submitted to the First International Symposium in London, in the May 1980 meeting dedicated to "Romania's Stamps and Postal History."**

**REVIEW:**

## BULETIN INFORMATIV

**(Informative Bulletin)**

Published in Romanian language by the Bucharest chapter of the Association of Philatelists of Romania; 32 pages; 5 lei.

The first part lists the philatelic issues of 1977-79 and their first day cancellations. Additions and corrections to the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 follow. Next is an article on the qualities and knowledge required to be a member of a philatelic jury and a set of instructions for setting up a philatelic exhibit. Another article deals with the rules for philatelic exchanges with foreign collectors, showing that: exchanges only can be made through the Association of Philatelists of Romania, the allowed monetary value limit of exchanges with eastern (socialist) countries is twice that for western countries and tells what and how much can be sent abroad. The final article presents directios for making up commemorative and "first flight" covers.

**REVIEW:**

## CATALOGUL EXPOZITIEI FILATELICE REPUBLICANE DE INTREGURI POSTALE

**(Catalogue of the Republican Philatelic Exhibition of Postal Stationery)**

Published in Romanian language by the Bucharest chapter of the Association of Philatelists of Romania; 92 pages; 15 lei.

The exhibition was held in Bucharest in April 6-14, 1980. Its catalogue, besides the usual regulations and lists of organizers, contains three interesting articles:

"History of Postal Stationery" is a 43 page study by Dimitru C. Biala.

"Uncatalogued Romanian Postal Stationery and Varieties" by Dr. Razvan Panaitescu.

"The Status of Postal Stationery in Topical Collections" by Dr. Nicolae Tripcovici.

There is also a list of exhibitors with the titles of their exhibits, which is useful for those interested in who specializes in what.

**REVIEW: by Silviu Dragomir**

## BELJEGGYUJTOK KONYVE

**(Philatelists' Book) by Eros Laszlo**

This 1978 Hungarian language book was published in Bucharest (Kriterion Publisher). Its 224 pages of text and illustrations (plus another 438 color illustrations) contain many interesting chapters, such as "Occupation Stamps" (pages 95-100); "Concentration Camps and P.O.W. Posts" (pages 107-111); "Postal Stationery" (pages 172-185); "Perfins" (pages 190-200); "Early Collectors & Famous Collectors" (pages 209-216).

The manual is very interesting and useful all in all. The author's address is: EROS LASZLO, Str. Horia No. 19, 3400 Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

# DATED LINEAR POSTAL MARKINGS USED BY THE AUSTRIAN POSTS IN BUCHAREST

**NORBERT BLISTYAR, Str. M. Viteazul No. 2A, 1725 Bocsa, Romania.**

The circumstances of the introduction and operation of the Austrian posts in the Romanian Principalities are available to collectors and researchers of postal history from both specialized books and articles published in "Filatelia" as well as in "Romanian Philatelic Studies". There being no need for a general presentation of this subject, we will examine only the dated linear postmarks used in Bucharest.

The first information on these markings is found in the work of H. and B. Birnbach (1930) in which only one type is noted, used in 1853. If the illustrations published represent actual size, the height of the letters in "BUKAREST" would be 4 mm. and the length of this word 30 mm.

The late Grigore Racoviceanu in 1963 noted (Postal Markings Used in Romania Until 1881) the existence of two of this type of markings: one of the I-8 type (by his own classification system) with letters 3 mm. high (used after 1848), and a second, of the I-9 type, with letters 4 mm. high (used beginning 1854). If again the illustrations presented are life size, the first type (I-8) is 24 mm. long while the second (I-9) is 30 mm. long.

Silviu Dragomir in "Austrian Imperial Posts in Bucharest" (Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 1/1980) proves the use of the I-9 marking as early as April 3, 1853. The illustrations accompanying this article show all the dated linear markings used by the Austrian posts in Bucharest but unfortunately, not all are at their actual size.

In comparing this data with letters in my collection, I noted certain inconsistencies, which prompted my more detailed analysis.

The first item (Fig. 1a), mailed in 1849 (as shown by its text), bears a "BUKAREST/22 DEC" departure marking in greenish-blue, and a "WIEN 5/1" backstamp as an arrival marking (Fig. 1b). The "BUKAREST" marking is 30 mm. long and the height of its letters is 4 mm. Although this cover was perforated for disinfection, this operation was not noted by any marking or seal.

The second item (Fig. 2a) bears a "BUKAREST/29 MAI" linear marking in black, its length being 30.0 mm. and the height of the letters 4.2 mm. On its reverse (Fig. 2b) is the "HERRMANNSTADT 1/6" arrival marking and a handwritten note by the recipient which fixes its date as the year 1852. This cover was likewise perforated for disinfection purposes.

A third letter (Fig. 3a) was mailed from England on October 2, 1854, to Galati. On its back (Fig. 3b) are found the transit markings: "AUS ENGLAND PER AACHEN 3/10 B" in red; "HERRMANNSTADT 9/10"; a linear "BUKAREST/13.OCT." in black; and the "GALLATZ/16.OCT." linear arrival marking in blue. The "BUKAREST" marking is 29.5 mm. in length (shorter due to paper-fold) and the height of the letters is 4.5 mm.

Here we have 3 postal markings, used in 1849, 1852 and 1854, with their sizes so nearly equal to one another that it is certain they were created by the same canceller. I believe that the small differences in size are due to the various papers on which it was applied and to the probable reconditioning of the cancellers, indicated by the evolution of the shape of the letter "S" and, to a lesser degree, of the letter "R". The sizes correspond to those of the I-9 marking. If the real size of the I-8 marking matches the illustration presented by

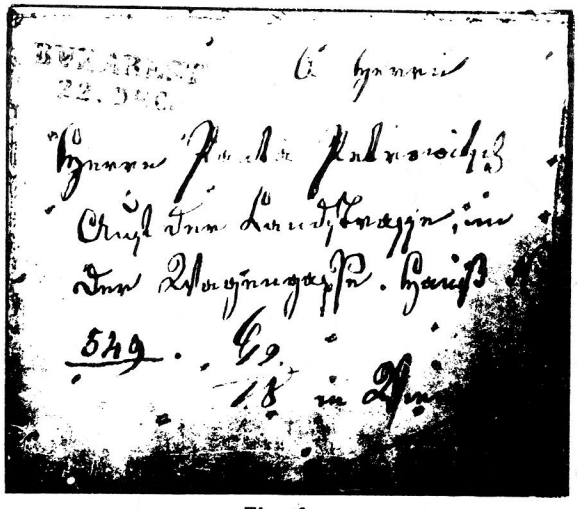


Fig. 1a

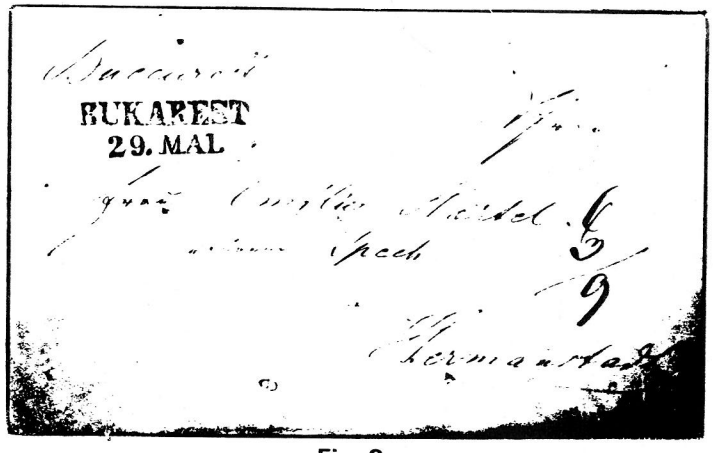



Fig. 2a

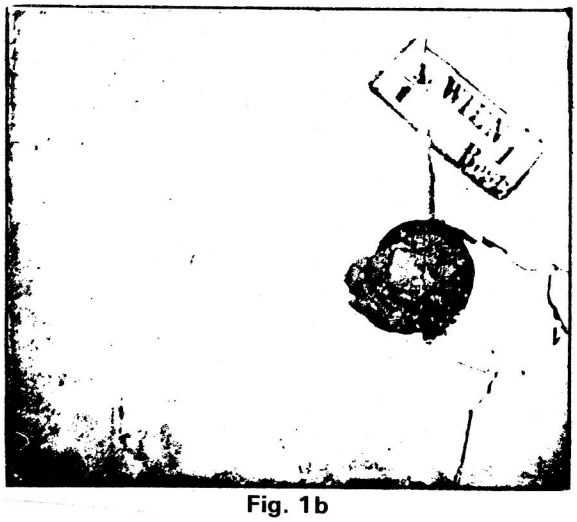



Fig. 1b

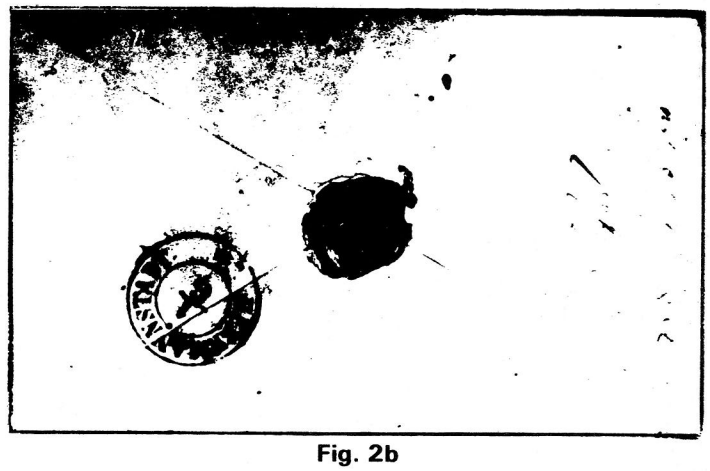


Fig. 2b

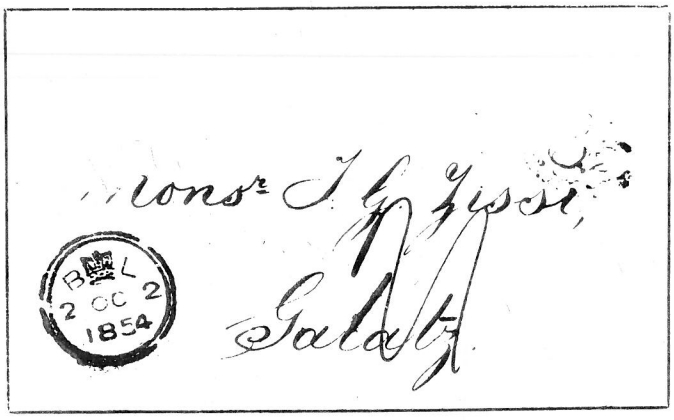



Fig. 3a

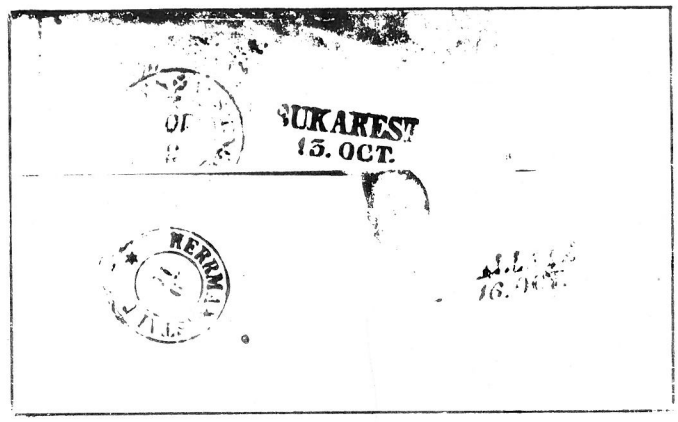



Fig. 3b

Racoviceanu (22x3.4 mm.), we can categorically exclude the possibility that any of the three markings presented here are of type I-8 (the sizes being very different). Thus, they are certainly of the I-8 type (which was used as early as 1849).

It certainly would be risky to draw a definite conclusion based on just a few items and, therefore, the problem remains open. I ask collectors who possess covers with such dated linear "BUKAREST" markings, to check the sizes and dates of use, and to send me this information in order to be able to positively establish the period of their use.

**MAJOR ARTICLES IN THE ROMANIAN MAGAZINE FILATELIA**

| | |
|---|---|
| **No. 11/1979** | |
| Historical Details about the 1978 "Dacian-Roman Archeology in Moldavia" Issue | Dr. Mihail Chiritescu |
| **No. 12/1979** | |
| The 1872 Paris Issue and Other Romanian Issues with Gutters | Mihail Popovici |
| **No. 1/1980** | |
| The Union of the Prinicipalities as seen in Postal Markings | Grigore Racoviceanu |
| Postal Markings of Alexandria, from 1865 to 1977 | Ion Spiru |
| Uncatalogued Romanian Stamps | Dr. P. Voiculet-Lemeny |
| **No. 2/1980** | |
| Contributions to the Study of Prephilatelic Cancellations | Dr. Ion Patrascu |
| Errors and Varieties of the Paltinis Local Posts | Dr. Marcel Sapira |
| A Postmark Enigma | Gr. Cuculis & Gr. Racoviceanu |
| The Definitive Issue of 1960-1967 | Norbert Blistyar |
| **No. 3/1980** | |
| A Little Known Procedure Used by the Romanian Posts of a Century Ago | Silviu Dragomir |
| On the Telegraph Posts of the Railway Stations in 1873 | Leonard Pascanu |
| **No. 4/1980** | |
| Romanian Maritime Service in Mitileni | Dr. Nicolae Tripcovici |
| On the Telegraph Posts Regulation of October 1/12, 1871 | Leonard Pascanu |
| **No. 5/1980** | |
| The Struggle Against Cancer | Dr. Razvan Panaitescu |
| **No. 6/1980** | |
| Aerograms | Dr. Ovidiu Demetrescu |
| The Evolution of the "Gara Ruginoasa" Cancellation | Dr. Ilie C. Demetrescu |
| **No. 7/1980** | |
| Two Little Known Service Markings Used in the Last Century | Iulian Constantin |
| On the Postage Due Markings, 1868-1881 | Barbu Popescu |
| **No. 8/1980** | |
| Contributions to the study of the circulation of the Cuza-1865 stamps | Kiriac Dragomir |

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## C.M.I. Service on the Danube

# Romania's French River Post

By Ludovic Dengel, str. Noua No. 39, 2400 Sibiu, Romania

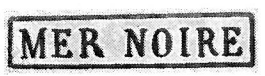
In the 1857-1866 period the French steamship line *Compagnie des Messageries Imperiales* served ports of the Black Sea and those of the Danube (Sulina, Tulcea, Galati and Braila) where there were French consular posts.

Mail for the Black Sea ports reached Constantinople from Marseille each Sunday to connect with ships sailing on Monday. From Constantinople C.M.I. serviced two routes, each with two vessels. We are interested in the one that went to Romania. One ship left on Monday for Varna, Constanta, Sulina, Tulcea, Galati and Braila, reaching its destination on Friday and starting the return trip on Saturday. It arrived back at Constantinople on Wednesday, completing the round trip in 10 days. The second ship sailed on alternate Mondays.

From Constantinople mail including that collected in the Danube ports left for Marseille every Wednesday. The schedule is indicated in this time-table:

In May, 1857 C.M.I. concluded a mail-carrying agreement with the French postal administration. The volume of mail actually transported on the Danube was quite light, since the local population used mostly the Austrian or Russian posts.

According to Raymond Salles *(La Poste Maritime Francaise, Tome II: Les Paquebots de la Mediterrannee de 1837-1939)*, during the pre-stamp period postage fees were paid in cash. Markings of "10" or "20" were applied to the covers with handstamps, the "30" rate handwritten in ink. Later French postage stamps were used. To indicate the means of transport, a rectangular undated handstamp *MER NOIR* (Black Sea) was applied. Only one type is known.




Memo No. 57 of June 1857, which gave the schedule outlined above for the Romanian ports, also stipulated that since navigation on the Danube might be feasible only from April until November, the date of beginning the service would be decided each year jointly by the French postal authorities and officials of the line. During the winter, when the Danube was frozen, the mail was transported by other companies (Lloyd) to Constanta and forwarded by railroad.

The number of C.M.I. trips annually was approximately as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1857 | 27 | 1862 | 38 |
| 1858 | 36 | 1863 | 43 |
| 1859 | 38 | 1864 | 46 |
| 1860 | 42 | 1865 | 39 |
| 1861 | 38 | 1866 | 35 |

Apparently the first ship to make the Constantinople run was the packet *Hermes*, which sailed from Constantinople July 13, 1857. One of the vessels later plying the Danube route that year was the *Pericles*.

The 1858 navigation season was opened on March 22 by the *Pericles*. The *Balkan* was sailing at the end of March. The arrival of the *Taurus* in August assured a regular schedule.

In 1859 the *Balkan* made 21 cruises and the *Taurus* 17. Navigation was interrupted on Dec. 12 because of ice on the river.

In 1860 C.M.I. cruises lasted from March 9 to Dec. 16.

In 1861 trips were made from March 9 to Dec. 16 by the *Balkan*, the *Taurus* and at times by the *Pericles*. In this year the C.M.I. ships reached Constantinople almost empty because passengers were afraid they would not have immediate connections with France. The ships were arriving on Thursday rather than Wednesday, missing the connection to Marseille. Passengers used other ships (Lloyd) to get from Constanta to Constantinople. On Sept. 10 the *Balkan* is known to have carried mail marked *MER NOIR* .

According to the C.M.I. register on Dec. 12, 1862, the *Taurus* was blocked by the ice at Sulina and forced to lay over.

The 1863 Navigational season opened on Feb. 15. That year besides the *Balkan* and *Taurus*, the *Oronte*, the *Mersey* and the *Cheliff* also served. Covers dated May 19, July 17 and Nov. 11, originating from Galati (Romania) or Varna (Bulgaria) are known with the *MER NOIR* marking.

Some of the 46 cruises in 1864 were made by vessels larger than the *Balkan* or the *Taurus*. The *MER NOIR* marking has been found on covers originating in Galati dated April 13, Oct. 25, Nov. 8 and Dec. 18.

The 1865 season began on March 12. The *Balkan* made many cruises, *Taurus* 15 and *Vatican* only one. Cholera broke out in Constantinople in July and a quarantine station was set up in Braila where mail was disinfected. In August and September cholera reached Braila and Galati and mail, merchandise and passengers were disinfected.

The 1866 season opened on Feb. 7. The *Balkan* made 14 cruises, the *Taurus* 17 and other larger ships four. Cholera broke out again in July and August. Due to the quarantine only one trip was made each 14 days.

Since little mail was carried, covers transported by C.M.I. vessels are very scarce. Despite all its years of operation, only two covers are known with the circular date stamp of the *Balkan* (one of them dated "16 Mars 59") and only 12 covers with the rectangular *MER NOIR* marking.

# TWO UNRECORDED ESSAYS FOR THE 1920-1927 DEFINITIVES

**DAVID GIJIRIGUIAN, New York City, New York**

E. Cohen's work "Contributions a l'Etude des Essais des Timbres-poste de Roumanie" (1945, Lisbon, Portugal) describes in chapter XXV (Projects pour des Emissions Ordinaires, 1920-1927, pp. 52-56) 12 types of essays made during 1920-1927 as possible replacements of the 1920-1922 definitive issues. This 13 stamp set of definitives is listed in catalogues as follows: Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 nos. 354-366; Scott nos. 248-260; Michel nos. 251-263.

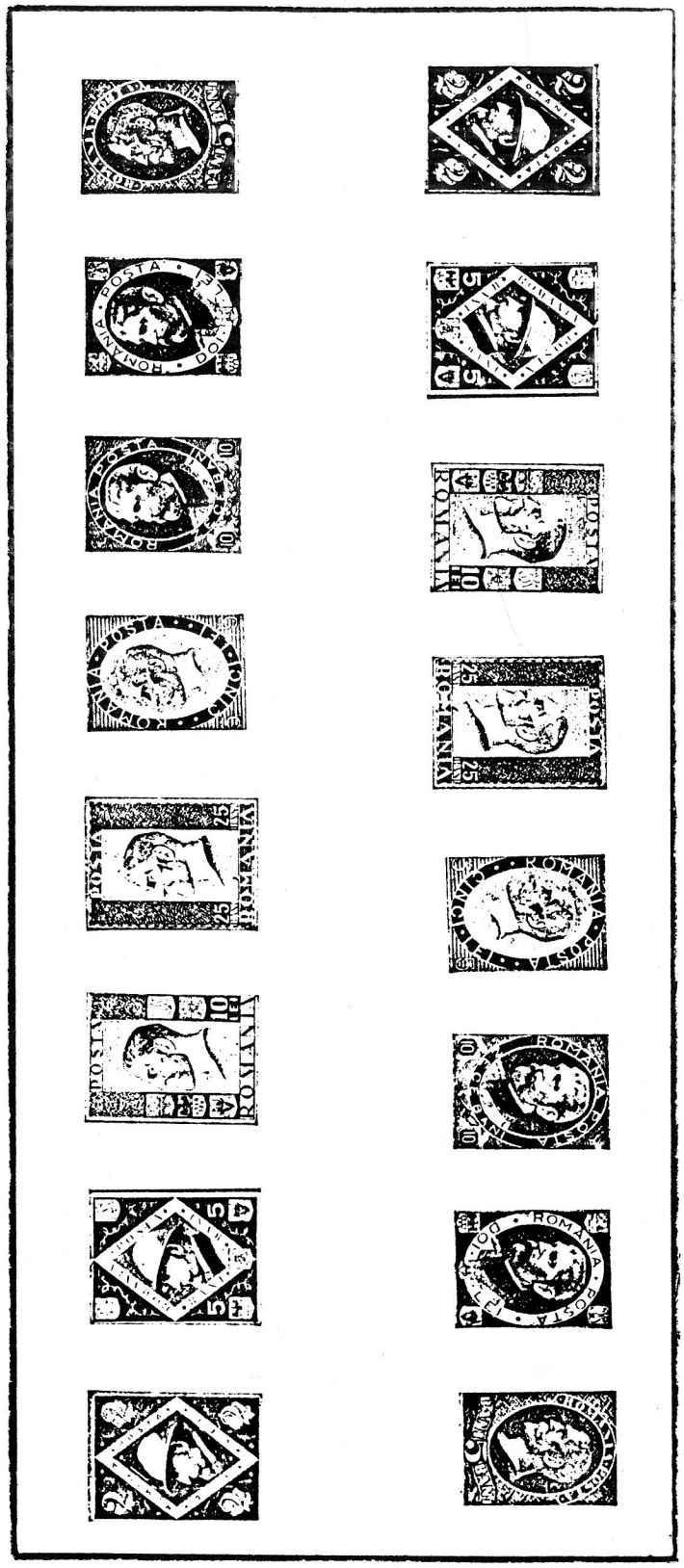
The 12 essay types, numbered XXV A - I, are illustrated by Cohen as Figs. 81-92. Due to their similarity in general appearance and size we believe that the first six essays (XXV A - C, Figs. 81-86) are actually one project, produced together on a single collective sheet. However, given the lack of material, we cannot at this time make the same assertion about XXV D - I, Figs. 87-92.

In fact, there are two more than the six types illustrated by Cohen as Figs. 81-86, and numbered as XXV A - C. We illustrate two essays which were not described by Cohen. The first one shows an essay on which King Ferdinand's bust appears in an oval surrounded by another oval with "ROMANIA. POSTA. CINCI. LEI" inscription. This essay shows similarities to Cohen's XXV A, Figs. 81-82 in that the King's effigy is in an oval, surrounded by another oval with text. The second essay shows a different design, again with King Ferdinand's head in an oval, and with "ROMANIA. POSTA" at the top of the oval, and "BANI 5 BANI" on the bottom.

The six essays presented by Cohen as well as the two essays presented here were printed in sheets of 16, composed of 2 rows of 8 different essays each, in tete-beche rows, with approximately 27 mm. blank space between rows. We illustrate such a collective essay in which the first four, the sixth and the seventh essay represent Figs. 81-84, 85-86 of Cohen, while positions 5 and 8 were unknown to Cohen.

The approximate size of each essays is 18x25 mm., with variations of 1-2 mm. The horizontal distance between each is approximately 9 mm. The collective essay sheet measures 237x100 mm. The collective essays in our possession are printed on yellow, green and light cream ("chamois" according to Cohen, or buff) paper. On yellow paper the following colors exist: dark blue, orange, red, grey green, brown, brown violet. On green paper, dark blue, red, green, grey green, brown, brown violet. On light cream paper: orange, green, red, dark blue, brown violet, dark green, grey green, grey brown. Of course, our description of colors is arbitrary, and even if some of the descriptions do not match Cohen's, they might still be the same.

We present these essays to the philatelic community, although we are well aware that there are still unknown facts about them. We do not know the exact year they were issued, if they were issued upon official request or were printed by private initiative, mainly for sale to collectors. However, we believe that the presentation of two heretofore unknown essays could be considered a modest contribution, and might stimulate further research.



Reprinted from THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST, April 1981

# Bistra: A Local Post in Transylvania

by Emanoil Munteanu

At the beginning of this century, Bistra was a resort area located in picturesque surroundings of pine woods. During the summer, the Department of Forestry would let chalets for use by tourists in both the upper and the lower summer colonies (Figure 1). The resort area, located in Alba County, forty-eight kilometers south of the city Sebes, is situated on the western slopes of the mountains near the Sebes River. The upper colony is situated at an altitude of 1,419 meters, and the lower colony at 1,321 meters. The colonies were used from 1901 to 1914.

Tourist services were administered by

*Figure 1.*

*Figure 2.*

the Sebes Section of the Carpathian Society of Transylvania (Siebenburgischer Karpathenverein — SKV), which initiated and maintained a postal service.

The first unimpeachable information on the activity of the Bistra posts is found in the weekly, *Der Unterwald*, No. 25, June 24, 1906, published in Sebes. According to Dr. N. Cristea, Sr., this issue announced that regular transport service during July and August would be instituted. Horse-drawn buggies ("Bistrawagen," which also carried two to three passengers) would leave Sebes (Muehlbach in German, Szaszsebes in Hungarian) Sundays and Thursdays at 7 a.m. and arrive at Bistra at 7 p.m. Return trips would take place on Mondays and Fridays. It further specified that, "For correspondence and newspapers, 2 heller will be paid." All mail for tourists had to be addressed in care of Michael Guendisch, a merchant in Sebes, or handed to him.

To date, no covers or cards are known with Bistra stamps used in 1906.

***Dr. Emanoil Munteanu, a retired attorney living in Sibiu, Transylvania, is the author of* Postal History of Sibiu *(in Romanian), and the researcher of* Austrian Posts in Romania. *He is working on a manual/catalogue of advanced study entitled* Early Postmarks Used in Transylvania and Banat.**

*Figure 3.*

However, the 6-heller value is known used in 1907. It appears on a postal card alongside a Hungarian government-issued stamp.

The Sebes Section of the Carpathian Society of Transylvania (SKV) issued two different values of Bistra stamps on two dates (Figures 2 and 3).

In 1906, 2-heller stamps appeared. They are brown on gummed yellow paper, perf 11½. In 1907, 6-heller stamps were issued; these are brown on gummed white paper, perf 11½. It is presumed that approximately 5,000 of each value were printed. The two stamps are identical, except for the denomination. The design, in a double rectangular frame with a thick outside frame and the inside frame thinner and broken in many places, bears the initials "S.K.V." (Siebenbuergischer Karpathenverein) at the top. Below it, between two arches, is written "SECTION-MUHLBACH" (Sebes section). The center depicts a fir tree with ornaments on both sides. At the bottom, the denomination ("2" or "6") and "HELLER" appear in negative, and under these is "Bistra-Post." These are the only local post stamps used in Transylvania which bear the word "Post."

The design size is 17.4 x 20.4 mm, and the stamp size is about 23 x 26 mm. The design was done by Dr. Ernst Krauss (Gustav Krauss, according to some sources), at the time president of the Sebes section of the SKV. Cliches were produced by Angerer and Goeschel, a Viennese company. The printing (in sheets of 100 stamps) was probably done by the Josef Hintz printing works in Sebes. The execution and the printing are primitive and the perforation is irregular. Reprints or counterfeits of these stamps are not known.

The 2-heller stamps prepared in 1906 were not used because of an increase in the postage fee. For this reason, no covers or cards have been found with canceled 2-heller Bistra stamps. *Der Unterwald,* No. 26, June 30, 1907, announced that postage fees for correspondence and newspapers had been increased from two to six heller, in accord with a general price increase for all services. Similarly, on January 16, 1907, Hungary increased its national rate for letters from six to ten heller.

Why couldn't three of the 2-heller stamps be used to meet the new rate? It seems that the deciding argument was that three stamps simply took too much space. As all mail had to be franked first with Hungarian stamps, postal cards, and especially picture postcards, just did not contain enough room for three extra stamps. The postcard illustrated in Figure 10, mailed from Rome, Italy, to Bistra, shows how difficult it would have been to affix three of the 2-heller stamps. The majority of the 2-heller stamps must have been destroyed, as they are very scarce.

In the philatelic press, doubt has been expressed that the Bistra local posts functioned in 1908. I maintain that this local post was active in that year, and as proof illustrate a postcard mailed to Bistra on August 22, 1908 (Figure 4).

Beginning in 1909, Johann Rilki was entrusted with the postal service. A merchant of Sebes (Sikulorum Street, No. 6), he would obliterate the Bistra stamps with a linear cancellation inscribed with his name. In 1946, he told

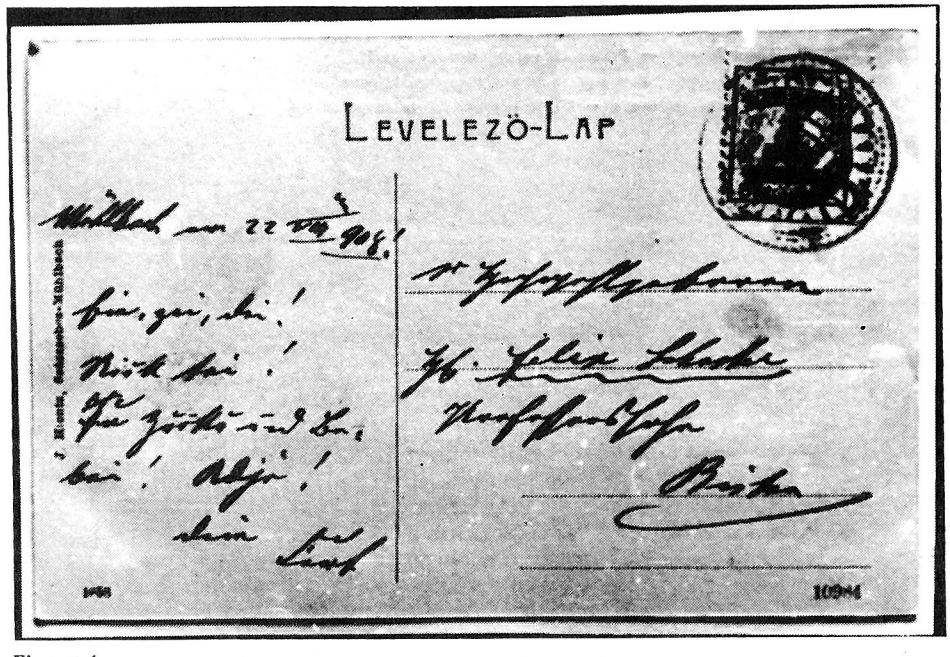



*Figure 4.*

Victor Chiba Tois that he received 6-heller stamps from SKV Sebes in lots of 500, and paid for each lot when requesting a new one.

According to *Der Unterwald,* No. 28, July 9, 1911, the transportation schedule was changed in that year; the

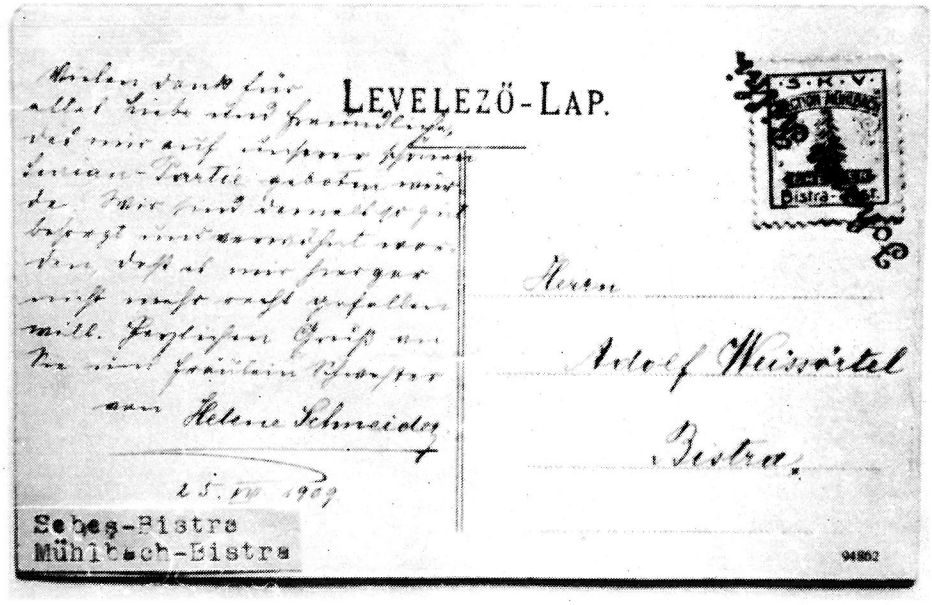



*Figure 5.*

buggy for Bistra left Sebes on Tuesdays and Fridays, returning on Wednesdays and Saturdays. In 1912, the first journey was on July 9. *Der Unterwald* of July 7, 1912, mentions that the 6-heller stamps for letters and newspapers could be bought in Johann Rilki's store, or at the Bistra resort from the person who handled the mail there. In Bistra, the "mailman" received and distributed postal shipments. Mail for Sebes could be received until 6:30 on the morning of the journey. Each user of the Bistra posts paid a contractual fee of five kronen per season. Employees of the Department of Forestry, however, had free-franking privileges except on packages, for which they had to pay the same reduced fees as the members of the Carpathian Society of Transylvania.

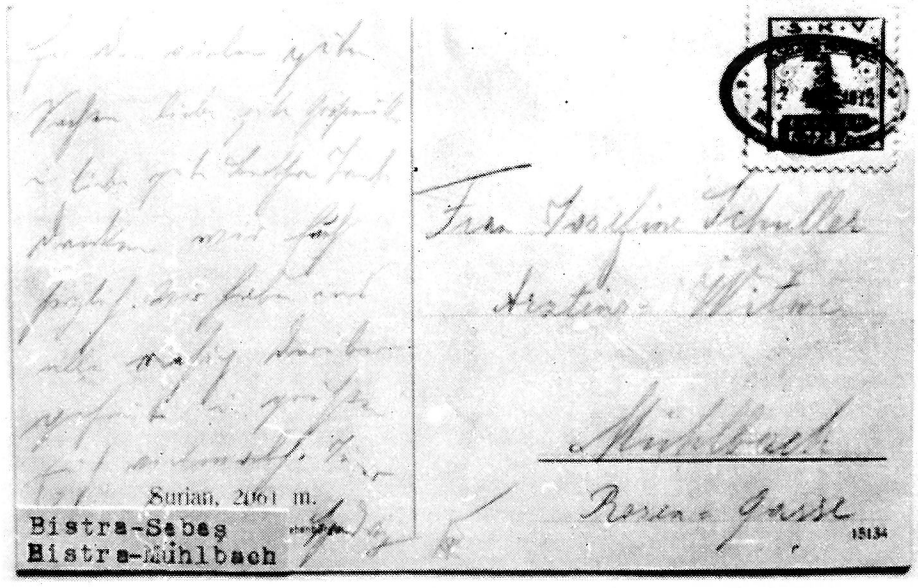



*Figure 6.*

For detailed fee information, readers are referred to the work of L.S. Ettre, *Hohe Rinne and Bistra* (published in 1977 by the Society for Hungarian Philately), which presents the regulations of the Bistra posts for mail and parcel service in effect in June 1912.

Transportation and postal services also became available for Tau and Sugag, villages on the Sebes-Bistra route, but evidence of postal usage from those towns is not yet known. In 1913, *Der Unterwald* (No. 31, August 3) published the following information: "The official postal authorities have opened an agency in Tau for July and August, which this year will be active starting August 1. Letters and other mail must be addressed to: Teu-L(etzte) P(ost) Szaszsebes (Tau-Last

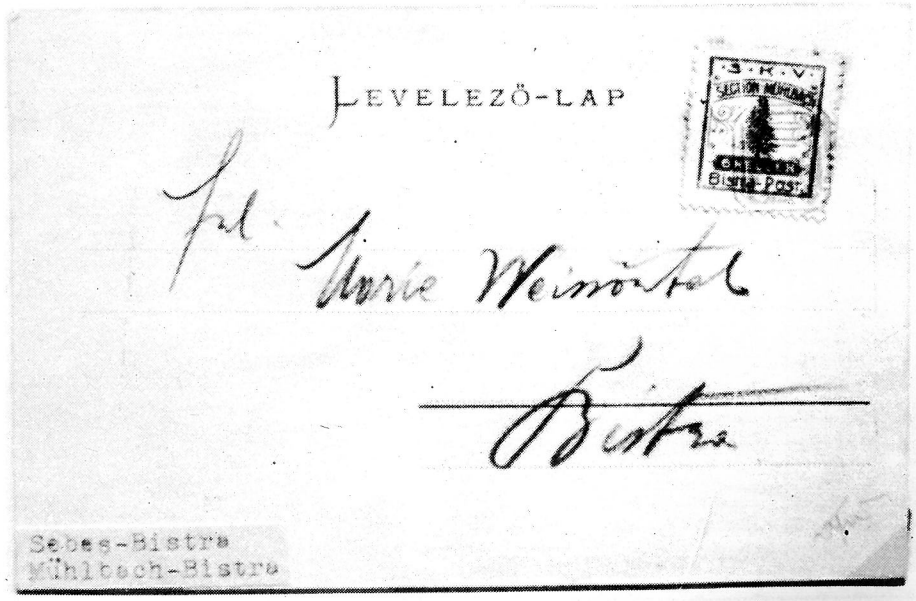



*Figure 7.*

Post Sebes). The Sebes Section of the Carpathian Society of Transylvania, based on a contract, has undertaken the obligation to carry mail to Tau. There, the SKV representative takes the mail for the tourists in Bistra." Nothing was said about postal fees or private stamps. Johann Rilki continued to be the person in Sebes entrusted with receiving the mail.

*Der Unterwald,* No. 25, 1914, in-

formed its readers that the first trip to Bistra that year would be on July 10 and the last on August 18. The journey now had a new schedule: Sebes-Tau on Tuesdays and Fridays, and Tau-Bistra on Wednesdays and Saturdays. After a three-hour rest stop in Bistra, the buggies now were scheduled to return to Sebes without stopping in Tau.

*Figure 8.*

That same issue of the publication also announced that "Franked correspondence and newspapers will be transported free, while those unfranked will not be accepted" ("franking" referring here to the official Hungarian stamps). The conclusion thus may be drawn that the Bistra stamps were no longer in use, and that transport of mail and newspapers to the addressees was effected without any fee other than the franking with postage stamps issued by the state. Because those items without franking were rejected, they could not be mailed by paying the fee to SKV, which had in the past performed this service based on a contractual agreement with the official posts.

The conclusion is, then, that the 6-heller Bistra stamp was used from 1907 to 1912. These stamps were affixed on

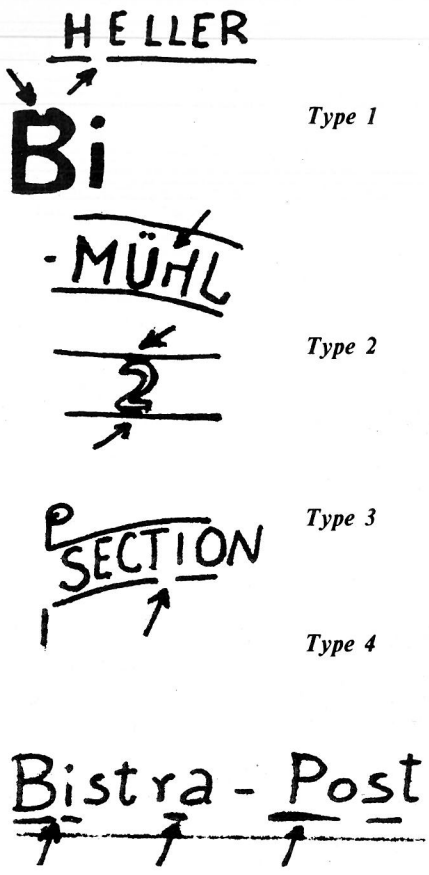
*Figure 9.*

postal shipments going from Sebes to Bistra and from Bistra to Sebes. The Bistra stamp also was used alone and not in conjunction with Hungarian postage stamps, on mail sent only through the local posts (Sebes to Bistra, or Bistra to Sebes; Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7). Several items coming from abroad to Bistra are known with the Bistra stamp in addition to stamps of the country of origin (Figures 8, 9, and 10).

L.N. and M. Williams, in *Hotel Posts of Hungary & Roumania* (published in 1962 in London, England), stated: "It was in 1912 that the attention of the Hungarian Post Office was drawn to the fact that the stamps

*Figure 10.*

were inscribed 'Bistra-Post.' Two officials arrived one day at the hotel and confiscated the entire stock of stamps; much of the stock consisted of the withdrawn 2-heller. All the stamps were sent to Budapest, where they were destroyed years later. After they had been confiscated, the S.K.V. submitted a claim to the Hungarian Post Office for compensation for loss of revenue in operating the local post. The claim was allowed and a sum of 150 kronen was




*Type 1*

*Type 2*

*Type 3*

*Type 4*

*Figure 11.*

paid in 1913, but after the outbreak of war in 1914 the hotel's horses and vehicles were commandeered for war service and no further compensation was paid."

I agree with J.L.N. Best of London, however, that — contrary to popular belief — confiscation of the Bistra local stamps by the state did not occur. First of all, such an action could not have passed unobserved by *Der Unterwald.* Secondly, the stock of Bistra stamps was in Sebes at the SKV office, and *not* in Bistra, where the confiscation supposedly took place. In Bistra there could have been only a small lot, necessary for immediate use. It also seems improbable that the state paid 150 kronen as compensation for abolishing a postal service which was considered unofficial and barely tolerated. However, the 150 kronen may have represented the fee for contractual services performed by SKV for the year of 1913 (transport of mail and newspapers).

Local postal service was discontinued completely in 1914, because of the outbreak of World War I.

Because the 2-heller Bistra stamp is very scarce, study of its types and positions on the sheet has been difficult. As was established by J.L.N. Best, there are four types of this value. Their constant characteristics are illustrated in Figure 11.

Blocks and pairs studied led me to the conclusion that a transfer block of four was used. Below are their compositions:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 2 3 4 | 2 3 | 2 3 | 3 4 |
| 1 2 3 4 | | 2 3 | 3 4 |
| 1 2 3 4 | | | |
| 1 2 3 4 | | | |

Because the material studied has been limited, positions on a sheet and number of stamps to a sheet (presumably 100) have not yet been established.

The 6-heller stamps were studied by the same English researcher who had access to a block of thirty-six stamps. I have studied a block of thirty-five stamps (in the Dengel Collection, Figure 12), and have arrived at more or less the same conclusions as J.L.N. Best. The only difference I can find is that on Type 4 of this stamp I have found a different constant characteristic (the "M" in "MUHLBACH" has its first leg broken in the middle) than the one indicated by Best (thickening of the frame line near "B" in "Bistra"), which is missing on some of the stamps of my block.

The constant characteristics of the 6-heller stamps are illustrated in Figure 13.

The type layout of the block studied by J.L.N. Best is as follows:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |

and a vertical strip:

2
3
4

The Dengel block is as follows:

*Figure 12.*

4 1 2 3 4
4 1 2 3 4
4 1 2 3 4
4 1 2 3 4
4 1 2 3 4
4 1 2 3 4
4 1 2 3 4

Other multiples studied by me include:

4 1 2 1 2 3 3 4
4 1 2 1 2 3 3 4
4 1 2 1 3 3 4

## *Cancellations Used on Bistra Stamps*

The first type of cancellation used to obliterate the 6-heller Bistra stamp is circular with an illegible text (Figures 4 and 9). It is found on correspondence mailed in 1907 and 1908 and handled by Michael Guendisch, who in those years was in charge of receiving and sending Bistra mail. It is made up of three continuous, concentric circles of 30, 24, and 17 mm in diameter, respectively. Between the middle and the exterior circle there are dots positioned in the space. Between the middle and the interior circle there are pointed arches. The inscription in the center cannot be made out on copies I have seen.

The second type of cancellation is linear, reading "JOHANN RILKI," the name of the new person entrusted with receiving and sending Bistra's mail. This linear type (Figures 5, 8, and 10) is 40 mm long and 5.5 mm wide, and the letters are in cursive. It is found from 1909 to 1912 (the end of the Bistra posts), although in 1912 other types also were used.

The third type is an oval framed with two concentric ellipses, their sizes being 29 x 18 mm and 16 x 13 mm. Inside the oval at the top reads "S.K.V.," while the middle contains two small stars with the date between (day, month name abbreviated, and year with all four digits). The bottom of the cancellation shows the name of the locality, "MUHLBACH" (Sebes), apparently used at the SKV office in Sebes and not in Bistra. This cancel (Figure 6) appeared in 1912.

A fourth type also appeared in 1912, and is in fact a seal (Figure 7). Rectangular with beveled corners, it measures 16.3 x 15 mm and displays the monogram "J.W." I believe it was used occasionally by Weissortel, the treasurer of SKV. All of the above cancels are in violet.

Envelopes bearing Bistra stamps are extremely scarce, as the majority of the tourists sent postal cards or picture postcards.

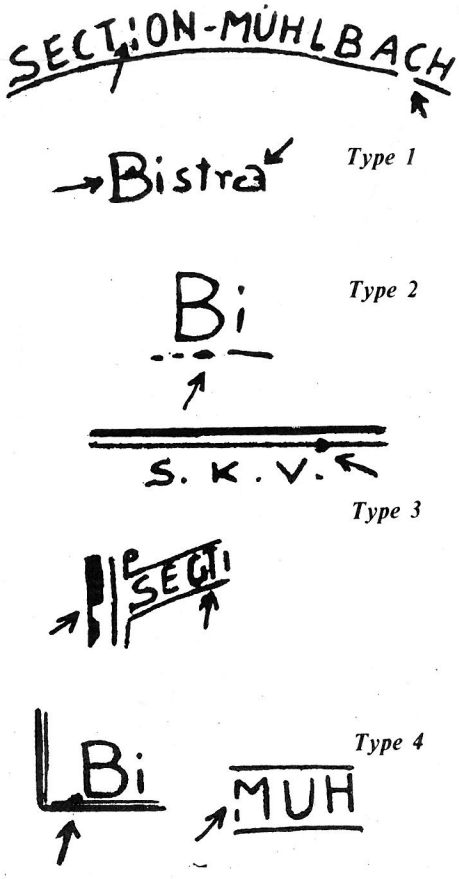



*Figure 13.*

In conclusion: Though the Bistra colonies operated from 1901 to 1914, mail service operated only from 1906 to 1914, and mail with Bistra stamps is known to us only from 1907 to 1912. However, it must be mentioned that E.J. Jaszai, in *Magyar Beljegek Katalogusa (Hungarian Stamp Catalogue)*, published in Vienna, Austria, in 1927, presented a proof of Bistra stamp usage in 1913. It is an item bearing a 5-filler Hungarian stamp, a 6-heller Bistra stamp, and the date cancel of Szaszsebes showing "July 26, 1913." This example also contradicts the theory of a confiscation allegedly taking place in 1912.

Research for this article was accomplished using the collection of Ludovic Dengel, a noted philatelic writer, researcher, and collector of Romanian stamps and postal history.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